

The Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion Red Maple Girdling Situation

By Bob Yager, Oakland Township Sentinel

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A-Conclusions

This situation has raised many questions in my mind about -

- Local government oversight
- Citizen oversight
- Practical and legal roles of BOT and PRC
- How our tree ordinance (Code 389) does or does not apply to Natural Areas Stewardship work
- What level of communication should we expect as voters

B-Recommendations

I need to pursue answers to these questions.

C - Public Body and Other Acronyms Used in This Report

BOT – Oakland Township Board of Trustees

LLNP - Lost Lake Nature Park (2004, 2008) - 58 acres

LLNPE – Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion (2022) – 235 acres, MNTRF grant TF20-0206

MNRTF – Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (provided \$3,081,000 grant for LLNPE)

OTPR – Oakland Township and Recreation Department (hired employees and volunteers)

OTPRC or PRC – Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission (7 elected officials)

LLNPEMP – *“Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion Maintenance Plan”* (Pages 1-14) (sheets 28-43 of the 90 page grant), written Sept. 2020 by Oakland Township Parks Dept.

LLNPMP - *“Lost Lake Nature Park Comprehensive Management Plan”* (Pages 1-14) (sheets 44-59 of the 90 page grant), written May 2010 by Plantwise LLC

D - Summary of What Happened

Editor’s note: You should not rely solely on my summary, but instead read the full verbatim transcripts and other information in this report.

In late January, Oakland Township formerly received title to the 235 acre Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion (LLNPE) on Lake George Rd. using \$1,000,000 of Land Preservation and Parks tax millage funds and \$3,025,000 from a MNRTF grant. Most of the dual-purpose park will be natural areas managed with Land Preservation millage funds. Hunting and fishing will be allowed. A ten acre parcel along Predmore is designated for active recreation.

This park, LLNPE, was the estate of auto dealer, Bill Fox. It was purchased in a complex legal deal, with Oakland Township Board of Trustees assistance, whereby Six Rivers Land Conservancy first bought it and leased it to us with the understanding we would buy the property from them when grants and financing were settled. There were two homes, one was Bill Fox’s large modern 6100 square foot home with 2600 square foot garage on 3.68 acres on the eastern shore of Clam Lake. This is surrounded on three sides by LLNPE. These homes were

both sold by the Township. Dr. Drew and Mrs. Kimberly Moore bought the former Fox large home, closing on about 6/30/2021.

Dr. and Mrs. Moore have been caretakers of a fashion, reporting illegal hunting and vandalism to our Parks Department. They felt they had an agreement to be informed of activities in the park so they would not think that legitimate parks workers were intruders. On January 11th, 2021, Dr. Moore encountered men girdling trees in the 15 acre Dry-Mesic Southern Forest northeast of his home. He confirmed that they were parks volunteers (one was a non-resident), but was concerned that he had not been informed of this work. Neither he nor his wife, nor any other resident had any reasonable opportunity to give input on the girdling plans that gave an irreversible death sentence to some large trees.

Mrs. Kimberly Moore attended the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) regular monthly meeting the next day, 1/12/2022, and raised concerns about the public not being made aware of plans to girdle large numbers of red maples up to 14" in diameter. She said, in part, ***"I wanted to use this time to appeal to the commission about the importance of public transparency when it comes to major structural changes being enacted on these public lands."*** PRC Commissioners, including Dan Simon the Chairman of their Stewardship Committee, who reviews such plans, were unaware of this girdling project. Mr. Simon said, in part, ***"You're saying that they cut down mature maples?.....why in the world would they do that?, that's crazy.""*** and ***"Thank you for bringing that to our attention; I had no idea that was taking place."***

Parks Director Milos-Dale sent an immediate text message to Grant Vanderlaan, Stewardship Specialist to stop this work See a complete verbatim meeting transcript later in this report (pages 19-22).

At the 2/1/22 Planning Commission, Judy Workings, both a Planning Commissioner and Parks Commissioner asked township consultants to review how the tree ordinance applies to this situation. Their feedback is expected at the March meeting.

The 2/8/22 BOT meeting packet contained a controversial resolution proposed by two unidentified board members. It is quite likely that at least one, Board of Trustees member, fulfilling their oversight responsibility, was watching the 1/12/22 PRC meeting, Board members have often reported doing so. The resolution said in part:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all expenditures, improvements, and authorized activities on or to the "Lost Lake Nature Preserve" shall be solely authorized and approved by the Oakland Township Board of Trustees.

The entire Board met in closed session 1 hour before the regular open meeting on 2/8/22. In open session Township Attorney Dan Kelly gave an explanation of the resolution's benign purpose and took blame for its wording. He said he will rewrite the resolution. See the withdrawn resolution and verbatim transcript of all meeting comments starting on page 24. Brief comments made by BOT members, after Parks Commission Chairwoman Emily Barkham and Commissioner Dan Simon spoke, give a glimpse into the true purpose. See pages 29 and 33 for these brief comments. (Yellow highlighted.)

Thirteen people spoke, including five Parks Commissioners and the two Parks stewardship volunteers who had done some of the girdling. Some commissioners feared losing the grant because the resolution implied that we would be failing to do what the application promised to MNRTF officials for active recreation and park public access.

The next day at the 2/9/22 PRC meeting, Dr. Moore followed up on an email he had sent on 1/12/22 expressing concern. The complete email is in this report on page 23. The "bottom lines" were:

It is awful that such damage has already occurred and cannot be remedied and to echo my wife's comments at the meeting, it is imperative that this type of stewardship be brought before the Commission and the public moving forward. Not just in Lost Lake, but throughout Oakland Township.

Please reach out if we can help clarify anything or you would like us to take you on a tour.

Very Respectfully,

MAJ Drew D. Moore, M.D.

In addition to the concern of no opportunity for public input, Dr. Moore expressed concern about the lack of oversight for this girdling project, as evidenced by Parks Commissioner comments on 1/12/2022. Dr. Moore said in part, "***So whoever the Steward is, needs to have oversight, just like Commissioner Workings was implying that I was saying. So, that's it, thank you.***"

PRC responded by citing pages 50-53 of the LLNPE grant application as allowing girdling large trees.

Commissioner Dan Simon made these comments - ***Could I ask a question of Dr. Moore? Oversight, how would you even come up with an idea on how to do oversight? Would you have to go out and hire somebody qualified from U. of M. or University of Kentucky or Doug Talami (sp?) from Delaware?***

“But this decision to let him do that was approved by qualified people at the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Trust Fund. They saw the whole 90 page plan and approved it and gave us the money to carry that plan forward. So they are our oversight by giving us that grant. Who’s better qualified than the folks running the state of Michigan. Should they be oversighted?”

There was commentary from PRC as to the knowledge, qualifications and character of Natural Area Stewardship Manager, Dr. Benjamin Vanderweide, who had identified each tree to be girdled by volunteers with a red-orange spray dot before he left on paternity leave.

Dr. Moore’s comment to all that was - ***I don’t think it has anything to do with Dr. Ben. I think it has everything to do with just... governance.***

E – Introduction to the Detailed Report

The purpose of this detailed report is to provide pertinent factual information, related to this situation for all to use. I have provided written transcripts (95%) of meetings in order to clarify what has been said.

F - Key Relevant Facts (includes Dr. Moore’s girdled tree photos)

1 – An accurate copy of the September 2020, 90 page application TF20-0206 to MNRTF can be seen on the township website using links in the Reference Section K, page 61 at the end of this report.

2 – The 90 page application contains two separately numbered “maintenance or management” plans -

LLNPMP – “Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion Maintenance Plan” (Pages 1-14) (sheets 28-43 of the 90 page grant), written Sept. 2020 by Oakland Township Parks Dept.

LLNPMP-“Lost Lake Nature Park Comprehensive Management Plan” (Pages 1-14) (sheets 44-59 of the 90 page grant), written May 2010 by Plantwise LLC

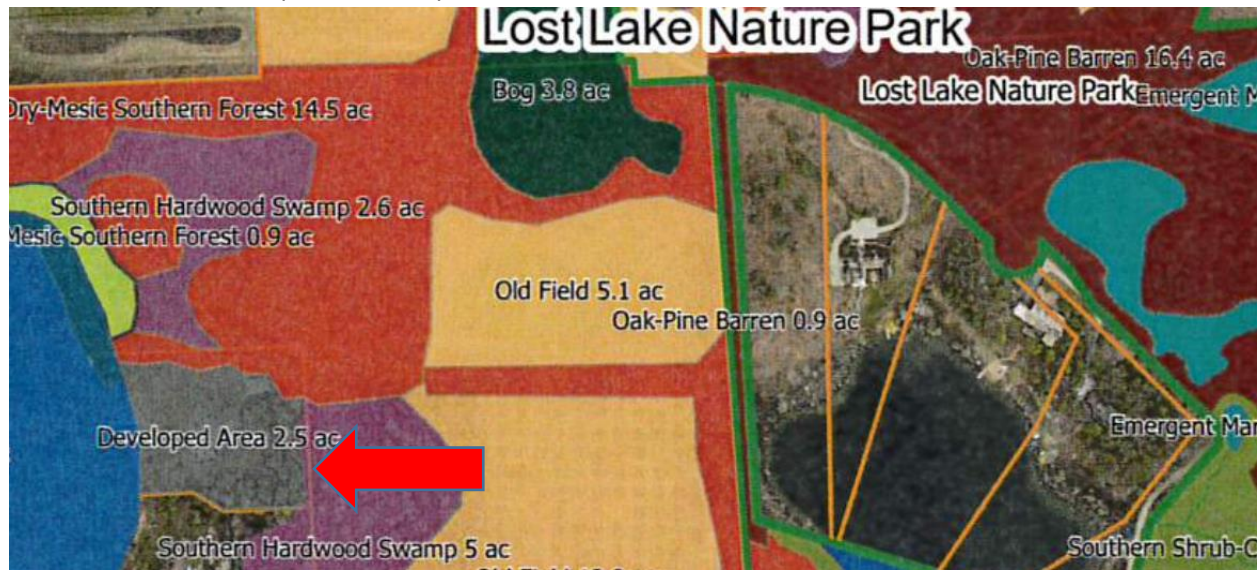
“We use the 1-90 pdf sheet numbers for identification of pages in this report as least confusing.

3 – TF20-0206 Grant Application page 23 color coded map ***“Lost Lake Park Natural Communities”***, Shows two Natural Communities adjacent to 1285 Lake George (red arrow points to 1285) in the new LLNPE

- Dry Mesic Southern Forest (tan)
- Southern Hardwood Swamp (purple)

Only in the original LLNP, to the northeast, do we see some

- Oak-Pine Barren (dark brown)



The blue that I have added below outlines the area of Dry Mesic Southern Forest where the tree girdling took place on January 11, 2022. It shows the proximity of 1285 Lake George to the maple girdling area. This is based on a February 17, 2022 visit by me for an amateur tree girdling survey. The large red arrow points to the lot at 1285 Lake George Rd. on 3.7 acres. The small red star is me taking a photo in the direction of the small red arrow. See photo on the top page 48 of this report.



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3 – On February 17, 2022 I went to LLNPE and did an amateur tree survey of girdled trees with these results for size, number and estimated age. Details of my method (some estimating was involved) start on page 46.

Diameter (Inches)	Number of Trees	Estimated Age - Years (Diameter x 4.5)
1	19	5
2	58	9
3	79	14
4	67	18
5	31	23
6	31	27
7	7	32
8	7	36
9	0	41
10	7	45
11	0	50
12	1	54
13	1	59
14	1	63
15	1	68
16	0	72
17	1	77

4 - Large Tree Girdling Photos by Dr. Drew Moore

Dr. Moore provided nine excellent photos of four larger girdled trees and a general girdled area of medium trees that he sent to Parks Director Milos-Dale. I obtained these useful photos in FOIA 2220 on 2/16/2022. See below.



Tree no. 1 - size



Tree no. 1 - trunk



Tree no. 2 size



Tree no. 2 trunk



Tree no. 3 size



Tree no. 3 trunk



Tree no. 4 size



Tree no. 4 trunk



View of trees – also a Dr. Moore Photo

5 – Part of 9/2020 grant application TF20-0206 (pages 28-43) is titled ***“Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion Maintenance Plan”***. This plan does not mention any planned tree girdling work.

6- A 2010 report ***“Lost Lake Nature Park Comprehensive Management Plan”*** authored by Plantwise, LLC is on pdf sheets 44-59 of the 2020 LLNPE grant application. One reason this report is included is to answer this question on page 13 of the application

Is documentation of the ecological value of adjacent protected areas and/or the ability of the project site to act as a corridor/buffer provided with application?

No ☒ Yes

If yes, source of information:



2010 Plantwise
LLC Mgt. Plan

7 - A second reason is this statement from the application pdf page 19 – **“OTPR will manage this additional property in coordination with the attached LLNP management plan.....”**

***IV. Other Information:**

Site Management

OTPRC will use funding from the Township's dedicated Land Preservation and Parks 10-year millages, which total approximately 2 million dollars in tax revenue annually, to manage the LLNP Expansion to support ecological values, public access, and recreation. See attached proposed maintenance plan. OTPR will manage this additional property in coordination with the attached existing LLNP management plan using existing OTPR natural areas stewardship and maintenance staff and contractors. Oakland Township Parks and Recreation includes a staff of 10 permanent employees and 4 seasonal employees who report to an elected Parks and Recreation Commission.

What does “manage this additional property in **coordination** with the existing LLNP management plan” mean?

8 – Pdf sheets 50-53 of the grant application are pages 4-7 of-***“Lost Lake Nature Park Comprehensive Management Plan”*** written May 2010 by Plantwise, LLC. This section explains how to manage an Oak-Pine Barren Natural Area occurring in the existing LLNP 58 acres with fire and girdling of maples greater than 8 inches in diameter at a rate of 20% per year. On pdf sheet 53, page 7, Plantwise, LLC recommends the same for a Dry-Mesic Southern Forest.

Current Plant Communities

The oak-pine barrens community at Lost Lake is an example of a state-threatened community type that is extremely rare in the southern portion of the Lower Peninsula and only slightly more common to the north. While pre-settlement maps indicate that the Lost Lake area was “black oak barrens,” the presence of naturally occurring larger white pines on site suggest this to be the oak-pine barrens community. This assessment was confirmed by a former ecologist at MNFI who noted the presence of large, local genotype white pines, companion plants, and context within the landscape, as evidence of this plant community.

According to the MNFI, this community is typically found on droughty, infertile sandy and loamy soils, where fire and grazing (if large herbivores were present) would have

kept the canopy to between 5 and 60 percent cover. This community type would occur in the driest portions of the landscape, south facing slopes, ridge tops, steep terrain, and flat sand plains. Several types of wetlands would typically occur in depressions within the barrens. They would also grade into dry sand prairies and dry forest types. Frequent, low-intensity fires contribute to maintaining the open nature of this community, while less frequent wind throw events and high-intensity fires would further reduce the canopy of mature trees. The MNFI natural community description states that,

“Numerous biotic factors influence the patterning of vegetation of oak-pine barrens. In addition to widely distributed overstory trees, barrens are characterized by scattered ant mounds. Mound-building ants play a crucial role in soil development of prairies and barrens; ants mix and aerate the soil as they build tunnels and bring soil particles and nutrients to the topsoil from lower soil horizons. Herbivores can limit woody establishment and growth. With their flammable properties, grasses and forbs help maintain the annual fire regime. Open canopy conditions are also preserved by the development of a dense herbaceous litter, which limits tree seedling establishment. Overstory trees influence vegetative composition by affecting the distribution of nutrients, light, and moisture.

Oak-pine barrens and surrounding prairie habitat once supported a rich diversity of invertebrates including numerous species of butterflies, skippers, grasshoppers, and locusts. Mound-building ants and numerous grassland birds also thrived in barrens and prairies. The fragmented and degraded status of Midwestern oak-pine barrens, savannas, and prairies has resulted in the drastic decline of numerous insect and bird species associated with savanna habitats and prairie/savanna host plants. Where large-scale herbivores were abundant, grazing may have helped inhibit the succession of oak-pine barrens to woodland and forest.

Fire is the single most significant factor in preserving oak-pine barrens landscapes. Where remnants of oak-pine barrens persist, the use of prescribed fire is an imperative management tool for maintaining an open canopy, promoting high levels of grass and forb diversity, deterring the encroachment of woody vegetation and invasive species, and limiting the success of canopy dominants. Fire intervals of one to three years bolster graminoid dominance, increase overall grass and forb diversity, and remove woody cover of saplings and shrubs. Burning at longer time intervals will allow for woody plant seedling establishment and persistence. Where rare species are a management concern, burning strategies should allow for ample refugia to facilitate effective post-burn recolonization. Fire management should be orchestrated in conjunction with that of adjacent fire-dependent upland and wetland communities such as dry sand prairie, coastal plain marsh, pine barrens, and dry northern forest. Degraded barrens that have been long deprived of fire often contain a heavy overstory component of shade-tolerant species, which can

be removed by mechanical thinning or girdling. Restored sites can be maintained by periodic prescribed fire and may require investment in native plant seeding where seed and plant banks are inadequate.

Historically, Native Americans played an integral role in fire regimes of barrens ecosystems, intentionally and/or accidentally setting fire to savanna, barrens, and prairie ecosystems. Destructive timber exploitation of pines (1890s) and oaks (1920s) combined with post-logging slash fires and attempts to farm the droughty soils destroyed or degraded oak-pine barrens across Michigan. In addition, alteration of the historical fire regime has shifted many of the vegetation types with barrens physiognomy into woodlands and forest. Fire suppression policies instituted in the 1920s resulted in the succession of open oak-pine barrens to closed-canopy forests dominated by black and white oaks with little advanced regeneration of oaks and pines and a vanishing graminoid component. Many sites formerly occupied by oak-pine barrens were also converted to pine plantations. The oak-pine barrens fragments that remain are often lacking the full complement of conifers, which were ubiquitously harvested. In addition to simplified overstory structure, these communities are often depauperate in floristic diversity as the result of fire suppression, livestock grazing, off-road vehicle activity, and the subsequent invasion of non-native species.

Monitoring and control efforts to detect and remove invasive species are critical to the long-term viability of oak-pine barrens. Invasive species that threaten the diversity and community structure of oak-pine barrens, especially in southern Lower Michigan, include common St. John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), black swallow-wort (*Vincetoxicum nigrum*), white swallow-wort (*V. rossicum*), Canada bluegrass (*Poa compressa*), ox-eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*), hoary alyssum (*Berteroa incana*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), Eurasian honeysuckles (*Lonicera morrowii*, *L. japonica*, *L. maackii*, *L. sempervirens*, *L. tatarica*, *L. xbella*, and *L. xylosteum*), and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*).” (MNFI)

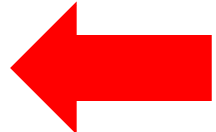
The primary goal within this community is to maintain or increase the breadth of plant and animal diversity found here. A secondary goal for this area is to soften the transitions between the oak-pine barren patches and those immediately adjacent to them. This can be most effectively done by carrying management efforts across community borders.

These goals can be achieved by reducing the advanced degree of shade (a result of long term fire suppression) while maintaining the regular presence of fire, the predominant natural disturbance regime associated with this community, as described in the MNFI community description above.

- The canopy should gradually be opened by annually removing approximately 20% of the red maple and black cherry trees greater than 8" DBH. Trees could be girdled and left standing or cut in the winter (when the ground is frozen) and removed from the site. In either case, the girdle or cut surface should be painted with a concentrated solution of herbicide.
- These areas should be burned in a rotation of one to three years. A natural delineation would be to separate the units with a line from one of the large emergent marshes in the southern portion of the park to the next.
- Seek to expand management into the neighboring properties (into the property east of the oak-pine barren along the west side of Green Lake, and along the east side of the park (the property to the northwest of Tamarack Lake).

At Lost Lake, the dry-mesic southern forest (DMSF) community is a natural gradation from the oak-pine barrens and is typically found on less droughty sandy loam and loam soils. White and black oaks dominate, along with red oak on north slopes, and various hickories. Other trees such as black cherry, sassafras, white ash, and basswood can form a minor component of this community type. Many of the current communities described as DMSF were likely much more open in the 1800's and would have been described as one of the barren or savanna types. Frequent, low-intensity fires set back woody growth, and wind throw would have assured light for oak regeneration. Due to fire suppression, canopies have become much more closed, and more shade-tolerant tree types such as red maple have suppressed oak regeneration.

Many of the management considerations and invasive threats for the DMSF are the same as in the oak-pine barrens community. Fire is critical in maintaining the structure and diversity of oak forests, and thinning of sizable red maples and other trees that are preventing oak regeneration and hindering sun-loving forbs will help to encourage groundcover diversity and stimulate oak regeneration.



The DMSF patches adjacent to Lost Lake Trail and west of Lost Lake are generally in good condition and present excellent forest structure: a diversity of plants comprising the canopy, understory, and groundcover. In contrast, The DMSF southwest of Lost Lake has a dense canopy and virtually no understory or ground layer. In part, this is likely a result of deer browse, but the closed canopy is sure to be a cause of this as well. Gradually reducing the presence of maples and cherries in this area is imperative for increasing animal and plant diversity here. Finally, the patch in the far southwest corner of the park has great potential but is heavily invaded by a host of weeds. Once these are removed, this area could serve as an important corridor for animals moving from the forests and fields south and west of the park, to Green Lake.

9 – At the February 18, 2021 annual PRC Stewardship Committee, plans for LLNPE phragmites control were presented to Committee members (Chairman Dan Simon, Commissioner Judy Workings, and Commissioner Cathy Rooney). No tree girdling plans were presented. The meeting agenda and draft minutes on pages 60-64 confirm this. 88 very detailed slides were presented to the Stewardship Committee at this meeting. A few slides showed individual medium size trees that had been removed or girdled in 2020 at PCHA. (“Whole tree removal” – slide 26. “Canopy thinning” slide -27)

<https://oaklandsentinel.files.wordpress.com/2022/02/document-2021naturalareasstewardshipupdate.pdf>

Whole tree removal



This appears to be Paint Creek Heritage Natural Area (10 acres)

References to canopy thinning at the 10 acre Paint Creek Heritage Area are in the minutes. But nothing about LLNPE.

- **2020 Ecological Restoration:** In 2020 completed control of mature invasive shrubs, canopy thinning, and large fuels reduction at PCHA -Wet Prairie. Hand-wicked cattails at PCHA-Fen. Hand-pulled invasive shrub seedlings in oak-pine barrens at LLNP. Completed targeted Phragmites treatment at SCRNP expansion.

Canopy Thinning



9- We can find no evidence in PRC minutes of any Stewardship Plans being adopted by PRC approved motion in 2021 or 2022.

G - Verbatim Meeting Transcripts Presented Chronologically (In a very few places I summarized only)

1/12/22 PRC Meeting

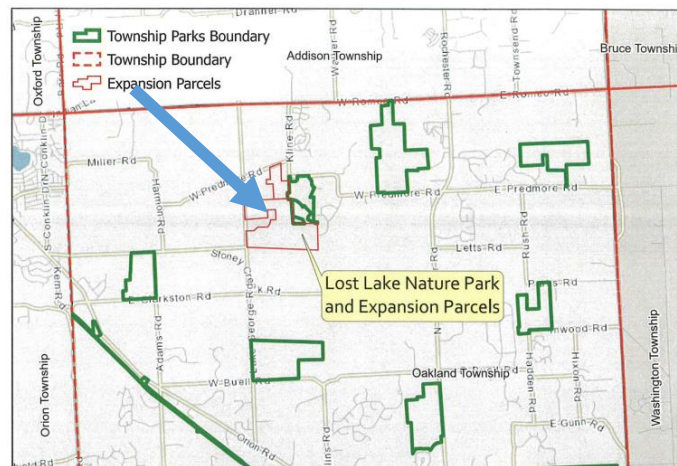
Transcript of the Meeting with a Few Minor Editorial Comments

Mrs. Moore's full comments (presented very calmly and very respectfully) were:

*"Hello, thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Kimberly Moore and I am the property owner adjacent to the Lost Lake Park expansion. I wanted to use this time to appeal to the commission about the importance of public transparency when it comes to major structural changes being enacted on these public lands. Living within the Expansion, my family and I have a vested interest in the protection and stewardship of this land. Within the past six months there have been issues with illegal hunting and vandalism on the property. Being within the confines of the land, my family and our neighbors are best suited to identify and report any unofficial or inappropriate activities on the land to the Parks and Rec office and Sheriff's department. The Parks staff has requested we keep an eye on the land and in exchange Mrs. Milos-Dale promised to keep us reasonably informed of planned official activities on the land. My husband and I are very familiar with the grant proposal that the township submitted to the state about the planned stewardship of the land. In the grant it is stated that work would be initiated to gradually thin the oak savannah undercanopy of maples by removing approximately 20% annually of small to medium sized trees, specifically trees up to 8 inches in diameter. Yesterday my husband was surprised to observe township volunteers girdling or killing every single maple tree at once, hundreds in total, regardless of size. I have photos of mature maples over 100 feet tall in excess of 14 inches in diameter that were girdled. Now, we understand that the aim of the stewardship program is to open the undercanopy to allow increased light penetration to promote oak growth. But nowhere was it stated that mature maple trees that are native to the land and have been in that location for decades will be simultaneously eradicated. At this point the damage is done and final. After we reached out to Mrs. Milos-Dale yesterday about the lack of communication she provided us a detailed letter for future plans over the next couple of months, which was much appreciated. I bring up this example, because moving forward **it is imperative that plans for public land that significantly alters the landscape, even in the name of stewardship, be presented ahead of time for public consideration and comment.** Ultimately the Parks staff, stewards and volunteers are acting at the behest of citizens of Oakland Township and not based on their own initiative. Thank you."*

Editor's note:

Mrs. Moore identified her address as 1285 Lake George. Her property is the former Fox estate home on Clam Lake recently sold to her and her husband by the Township. The blue arrow in the map below shows their house surrounded by Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion property and bordering Clam Lake.



Returning to comments at the 1-12-22- PRC meeting

Commissioner Craig Blust – ***“Kimberly, if you don’t mind, for the record, can you state your house number.”***

Mrs. Moore ***“1285 lake George”***

Commissioner Craig Blust – ***“And you are specifically talking about Lost Lake Expansion or current Lost Lake”***

Mrs. Moore - ***“The expansion”***

Commissioner Craig Blust (directing his question at Director Milos-Dale) – ***“You’re allowed stewardship in Lost Lake Expansion, even though it’s not transferred?”*** (Editor’s note, the park was still owned by Six Rivers Land Conservancy on January 12th, the Township did not get title until the end of January)

Director Milos-Dale – ***“Yes, we have a lease agreement.”***

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Commissioner Craig Blust – ***“So under the lease agreement, then?”***

Director Milos-Dale - nods agreement

Commissioner Craig Blust (directing his comment as Mrs. Moore), ***“Thank you for that information, thank you for showing up.”***

Commissioner Dan Simon ***“You’re saying that they cut down mature maples...”***

Chairperson Emily Barkham - ***“girdled”*** (Editor’s note, there was a brief few seconds of unclear commentary between Simon and Barkham on the video that appears to have established in Commissioner Simon’s mind that mature maples were in fact girdled”)

Commissioner Dan Simon – ***“...why in the world would they do that, that’s crazy.”***

Editor’s note - Commissioners looked to Director Milos-Dale for an answer

Director Milos-Dale – ***“I am not Ben Vanderweide, but, as best I understand from various stewardship conferences I’ve attended, red maple trees are fairly indiscriminate trees. They don’t populate a particular environment. They basically can grow almost anywhere. And so what happens a lot of times is they will crowd out the pre-settlement type vegetation which in our case is like the oak-pine barren areas here in Oakland Township. And so, typically in our stewardship goals, red maples are usually the trees that end up being removed in a lot of our areas, and Ben has done that in a lot of parks already. Our native landscape here is basically an oak-savannah type landscape. It’s not a mesic sort of natural community that typically has fostered maple trees. So maple trees are fairly recent, as far as our natural history here in our Township. That’s about all I can say in general.”***

Commissioner Dan Simon – ***“I can see cutting down just small guys but those mature trees are beautiful.”***

Director Milos-Dale – ***“Personally I haven’t been out there, and Ben’s the one that supervises that work. So I can’t say the size of the trees.”***

Commissioner Dan Simon – ***“Can you have Ben come to one of our meetings to explain why he cut down mature maples?”***

Director Milos-Dale – ***“I’d be happy to do that”***

Commissioner Dan Simon – ***“I’d like to hear that”***

Director Milos-Dale – (Directed at Commissioner Simon) ***“And typically around this time of year, and you know because you’re on the Stewardship Committee, we usually have our committee meeting where we talk about the tasks for the year.”***

Director Milos-Dale – (Directed at Mrs. Moore,) ***“So just for your information we have a committee that oversees stewardship work.”***

Director Milos-Dale – (Directed at Commissioners) ***“And as anybody who’s on that committee knows there’s quite a table with all the different tasks that are to be accomplished with the committee to verify that this is the work for the year, basically. And so, I think it might be good to have that committee meeting before bringing it to the commission as a whole. Usually the Committee***

recommends to the Commission what that work should be. And I think that would be a really helpful thing.

Director Milos-Dale – (Directed at Mrs. Moore) ***And that is an open public meeting as all of our committee meetings are. So you are more than welcome to participate in that. And we always advertise the public notice for all those meetings, just as we do this meeting.***

Commissioner Dan Simon – (Directed at Mrs. Moore) ***“Thank you for bringing that to our attention; I had no idea that was taking place.”***

Commissioner Judy Workings – ***“At our last meeting (Editor’s note – meaning meeting of the Stewardship Committee), this was never discussed. Taking out trees of that size was never discussed.”***

Director Milos-Dale – ***“I have no idea what the size of the trees are, so at this point I would reserve judgement until we actually see it.”***

Commissioner Cathy Rooney – (Editor’s Note – tape audio was poor at this point, probably a microphone issue, but this is what I think I heard) ***“Is there any way to halt this work until it is reviewed by the Stewardship Committee.?”***

Director Milos-Dale – ***“I’ll tell Grant, as I think I emailed everybody, Grant is heading up stewardship while Ben is off, so I can tell Grant first thing tomorrow, because I think there are volunteers that are supposed to come out tomorrow.”***

Commissioner Cathy Rooney – ***“I understand the very small trees, but those are beautiful sizeable trees.”***

Director Milos-Dale – ***“I have no idea”*** (Editor’s note - I assume this remark was directed at size of trees)

Commissioner Dan Simon – (Directed at Mrs. Moore) ***“Would it be possible, if you have a chance, to take a picture of the girdling.”***(Editor’s note - A brief discussion was inaudible but it ended with Mrs. Moore agreeing to forward photos she already had taken to Director Milos-Dale)

Commissioner Craig Blust – ***“So Mindy based on the fact that you have volunteer work going on tomorrow, could they possibly be continuing this work that we are unaware of? Can we restrict it to 6 inches diameter or smaller? You’re going to have to do something.***

Director Milos-Dale – ***“I would say at this point, I think we should stop it because it, because that would leave it too open to peoples judgement”***

Commissioner Craig Blust – ***“Yes, halt it. And apologize to the volunteers who willingly offered their time to help our parks.***

Director Milos-Dale – ***“I’ll see if I can text Grant now, otherwise it will be getting kind of late.”***

(Editor’s note – director Milos-Dale can be seen texting at this point)

Chairperson Emily Barkham - ***“Any further comments?”***

1/12/2022 – DR. Moore's email sent to Director Mindy Milos Dale (Obtained by FOIA's 2219, 2220)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Mindy Milos-Dale](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; dooleys@oakgov.com; [Benjamin VanderWeide](#); [Doug Caruso](#); [Jeff Johnson](#); [Grant Vanderlaan](#); [Casperzak](#); [Kim Newton](#); [Becky McLogan](#); [Julie Schoenherr](#); [Chris Bunch](#); [Brian Marzolf](#); [REDACTED]; [John McDowell](#); [clif selent](#); [Adam Kline](#); [Lou Danek](#); [Jamie Moore](#); [Brian Blust](#); [Daniel Simon](#); [Craig Blust](#); [Emily Barkham](#); [Cathy Rooney](#); [Jim Quesenberry](#); [Judy Workings](#)
Subject: Lost Lake Expansion Maple Tree Girdling
Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:44:13 PM

Commissioners,

Thank you for hearing my wife Kimberly's concerns at tonight's meeting about the girdling of mature red maple trees in the Lost Lake Expansion Property by volunteers. Unfortunately I was unable to attend.

I have attached photographs demonstrating the scope of the number of trees girdled. Easily in the hundreds. It's easy to girdle a tree, but I expect the Township will supply the resources to clear those trees once dead so as not to serve as a safety hazard to my children or park visitors.

Second, Ms. Milos-Dale mentioned she could not comment on the size of the trees. So I have included a variety of photographs of large mature maple trees which were girdled. This is just a sampling within a couple hundred feet of my property line. Some of these trees have been standing there healthy and beautiful in their native habitat for over 50 years and now are dead at the hands of misguided "volunteers". Clearly there is a lack of oversight of this so-called stewardship.

Finally, I have included a screenshot of the Lost Lake Nature Park Comprehensive Management Plan which clearly states no trees should be girdled which exceed 8" diameter.

I encourage you to visit the site for yourselves, it really is something to behold.

It is awful that such damage has already occurred and cannot be remedied and to echo my wife's comments at the meeting, it is imperative that this type of stewardship be brought before the Commission and the public moving forward. Not just in Lost Lake, but throughout Oakland Township.

Please reach out if we can help clarify anything or you would like us to take you on a tour.

Very Respectfully,

MAJ Drew D. Moore, M.D.

2/1/2022 Planning Commission Meeting Draft Minutes

“9. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS Commissioner Workings asked what the process for tree removal in Township parks is. Mr. Mende and Mr. Rentschler will look into how provisions of the tree ordinance might apply to this situation and will provide information at the next meeting.”

2/8/2022 Board of Trustees Meeting

Details:

Two unidentified trustees put consideration of a resolution titled “**RESOLUTION FOR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY**” on the Feb. 7, 2022 agenda and then the Board voted to take the item off the agenda at the meeting in a motion made by Clerk Buxar.

This agenda change came after a 6 PM “**Closed session for the purpose of discussing a confidential legal opinion**”

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION FOR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Oakland, Oakland County, Michigan (the "Township"), held on February 7, 2022.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following Resolution was offered by _____ and seconded by _____:

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland recently acquired two parcels of land: (1) Parcel Number 10-09-100-024 (previously 10-09-100-22 and commonly known as 1401 Lake George Rd., Oakland, MI 48363) and (2) Parcel Number 10-04-376-011.

WHEREAS, the Oakland Township Board of Trustees does hereby designate and name the above two parcels as the Lost Lake Nature Preserve.

WHEREAS, the Lost Lake Nature Preserve property was purchased with a combination of funding from a Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant ("MNRTF") and the Township Land Preservation Fund, financed in part with an interfund loan from the Township General Fund to the Land Preservation Fund.

WHEREAS, expenditures from the Land Preservation Fund are under the sole authority of the Oakland Township Board of Trustees and are limited to the purposes set forth in the Land Preservation Millage, those being for the "acquisition of land, the protection of natural habitat, and the preservation of green spaces within the Township" (Land Preservation Millage language from December 2021 levy).

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Township to maintain, operate, and fund all Lost Lake Nature Preserve improvements and activities through the Land Preservation Millage and, thereby, limit its operation and use to the protection of the natural habitat and preservation of green spaces and not for the operation as an active recreational use or park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Oakland Township Board of Trustees does hereby order the above-stated parcels, which include approximately 235.2 acres, shall heretofore be known as the "Lost Lake Nature Preserve," and shall be operated and maintained as a preserve under the Land Preservation Fund and for the express purpose of the protection of natural habitat and the preservation of green spaces within the Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all expenditures, improvements, and authorized activities on or to the "Lost Lake Nature Preserve" shall be solely authorized and approved by the Oakland Township Board of Trustees.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTENTIONS: _____

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Oakland, Oakland County, Michigan, on February 7, 2022, the original of which is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature this 7th day of February 2022.

Robin Buxar, Clerk

Bo

After removing the consideration of the resolution from the agenda, the Board asked Attorney Kelly who had drafted the resolution to comment.

Supervisor Dominic Abbate (turning to Clerk Buxar) ***“I’m going to have to ask you for help on how that agenda item ended up”***

Clerk Robin Buxar – ***“Sure, we are going to have a discussion as to why I asked for the item to be pulled, So, Dan, I’m not sure exactly how you wish to go about this discussion.”***

Township Attorney Dan Kelly – ***“Sure, why don’t I just give a little summary of how we got to this point. Do you want to do it that way?”***

Clerk Robin Buxar – ***“That’s fine”***

Township Attorney Dan Kelly – ***“For the public’s information, back in December 2020 this property was initially requested through a grant to be purchased. It recently closed in December. It took about a year to go through the process. There is no question that the property from the Township’s contribution was purchased with Land Preservation funds and the resolution is very clear about that. The Board of Trustees was very clear that the purpose of this property was consistent with what the Land Preservation millage was, which was the preservation of property and habitat. For that purpose. And it did not include a purpose, at least at this time, as what we would normally refer to as a public park. So, the resolution at this point was just to make that clear to kind of close the gap, if you will. Now that the property is in the ownership of the Township, if you look at the resolution, which I’ll take credit for, I drafted it so I’ll take responsibility for it. The first paragraph of the resolution was to confirm what I just said; that by way of history the property was purchased with Land Preservation funds and for lack or a better word it is an asset of Land Preservation, as opposed to a park, a public park.”***

(Editor’s note: At 2/9/22 PRC there was a discussion of the \$200,000 that had been budgeted to pay for the 10 acres set aside in the grant application for active recreation. This parcel is off Predmore and is best seen on page 21 of the grant application, where it is clearly marked.)

The second part of the resolution actually seems to be what has been most controversial, which designates that any expenditures must come from the Board of Trustees. And I think, generally speaking that went a little too far. It’s probably micromanaging. I don’t think it’s the intent of the Board to take this away from normal operations. It’s really the intent of the Board to maintain the operations of land preservation assets similar to what they have been in the past. But, if there are any significant changes or permanent changes to either the structures or the property, that the Board of Trustees would be apprised of that and made aware of that.

So at this point, I think I’m free to explain to the public that I’ve been asked to redraft the resolution to more fit that intent of the Board. So that’s why it’s being pulled tonight and at the discretion of the Board it can be brought back in the future.

Any questions, I’m prepared to answer them.”

Supervisor Dominic Abbate ***“Any questions from the Board”***

Clerk Robin Buxar – ***“Nope, that was the intent of why we’re having it pulled.”***

Trustee Lana Mangiapane ***“It was a very good summary”***

Attorney Dan Kelly – ***“Thanks. And throughout this whole process my whole office worked very closely with Parks. This is really a positive as Mr. Bunch said. I don’t believe there is any animosity between us and Parks. This is just a clarification that this is an asset of Land Preservation rather than Parks.”***

Trustee Jack Elder – ***“I think the Board is very appreciative of what has happened here will all the land acquisitions, especially this big park. I’m in awe of what you people do. It’s fantastic, fantastic. The intent of the millage was met and the needs and desires of the citizens. It’s fantastic. So, there’s no intent to micromanage what you’re doing; you’re doing a great job.”***

Supervisor Dominic Abbate ***“Are there any comments from the Board, further questions?”***

Trustee Mangiapane – ***“I’m delighted to see you all here”***

(Editor’s note Minute 27:24 of video.)

There was now about 30 minutes of public comment.

Brian Blust (Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Former Chairman 2021)

“I appreciate the discussion we were just having. Thank you, Mr. Kelly for helping to clarify. As we actually go and work towards refining the resolution, a few thoughts. We probably should take a look and align it with the contract we do have with Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and if we want to do revisions to it we can. And this is from my memory, so we will have to reference it. Yes, the vast majority of the park is indeed for land preservation and should be. It’s a stunning piece of work. But I do believe in the plans there was a small part, 10 acres is my recollection that was proposed for active purposes, so, consideration for that. I do also appreciate the expenditures micromanaging comment (directed at Attorney Kelly). We’ll help refine that. The other thing about that is there is a statement in there about “all activities will fall under, I did not quote it, Board of Trustees”. Usually there is a good partnership in identifying all the activities. I do want to say that I would appreciate, and I do appreciate, we’ve had a chance to work together, the signs activity. I enjoyed it, believe it not.

Trustee Robin Buxar – ***“I didn’t”***

Brian Blust – (chuckling) – ***“it’s the people, right, the people working together. I’d like to work together. There is a tremendous opportunity at this park. I have personal interest in helping with the Green Barn, my family’s heritage is a mile south of that. All the barns from the Middleton’s and Stuart (couldn’t make out last name) are gone. My Grandfather’s barns are gone. There’s not many of least left. So I’d really like to see a partnership there. We could take the opportunity to, I agree with Clerk Buxar the signs was not that much fun. But there has to be a better way for us to work together although I’m not chairman of Parks anymore, I’d really offer myself to be part of the liaison and to help get together with the Board. It’s a wonderful park. Thank you for your time.”***

Emily Barkham (Parks and Recreation Commission Chairperson)

***“My name is Emily Barkham and I live at 717 Letts Road in Oakland Township. I was actually concerned about the resolution that was on the agenda. In part because it doesn’t follow what was originally proposed in the grant and was agree to for the MNRTF grant. And I was concerned that if we don’t follow that agreement we could possibly lose the monies or it might affect future grant proposals or applications by not following what was agreed upon which you also as a Board approved. So I just wanted to make sure that before anything was agreed upon, that it would be prudent for the Board of Trustees to do their due diligence in looking into it to make sure that what is in a resolution is appropriate and what was agree upon in the grant application which you approved. I also wanted to point out that since the start of the land preservation millage in 2001, the Parks and Recreation Commission has responsibly managed the funds for the residents of Oakland Township. And that the Township residents do elect the Parks commission at each election to do so. No other township owns land reserved as a preserve or controlled or run by the Board of Trustees. That is why there is a Parks and Recreation Department in the Township. It is a bit redundant to have two different within the Township try to run what one entity is intended and qualified to do, Thank you for your time.*”**

Treasurer John Giannangeli - *I’m going to make a comment...*

Trustee Robin Buxar - *I know”*

Treasurer John Giannangeli – *“Got to make a comment, that’s what this resolution is all about.*

John Markle (Resident, 245 Birch Hill Drive)

***“I thought I was going home and I decide to stay around and watch this. Quite interesting. Mr. Supervisor, I debated whether I was going to bring this up, basically back in December, but I didn’t because of a little thing called “Cov” and “Vid”. And so I couldn’t be at the meeting. But I wanted to point out that over the last couple of months, I’ve heard something that’s very interesting coming out of this board and other.., out of this board mostly. And it has to do with communication. And I say this as a citizen who’s looking at, yet again, what sounds like another issue of communication. I heard when we had the whole Cider Mill concessionaire kerfuffle, and that’s what I’m going to call it is a kerfuffle at this stage of the game, that “so and so doesn’t communicate with so and so” and “they don’t respond and they didn’t do this and they didn’t do that”. And anybody who doesn’t know what I’m talking about, just go back and watch those two meetings, OK, when there was a pitch fork and torch concession in the parking lot. Literally, I walked into the meeting that night thinking, “What’s going on?” Every in this room is filled. And I tell you that because in my line of work, when I don’t get the communication that I need, with the person the very first thing I do is this (Mr. Markle holds up his cell phone). Or I click on my “teams” connection and say “Are you there, I need to talk to you.” Talk, speak into a microphone, hear inflection in their voice, and understand. I get an email and I don’t like what I hear, what I read, I pick up the phone or I call then back or like I did today, I scheduled a*”**

meeting and called thirty people into the room and say let's get this figured out. What I'm trying to say to you, what I'm trying to say to our illustrious Parks Commission, to our Safety Paths and Trails Commission, to all who were elected or appointed to run this township, this 6 million business, MR. Giannangeli? Pretty close, more or less?

Treasurer Giannangeli – *"It's more than that".*

John Markle – *"Ok, but that's what you get to control, not what you collect in taxes, but money that you control. You all need to start talking to each other. But not at this meeting, you need to have conversations ahead of time. If you tell me you sent an email, sorry, irrelevant, doesn't count, doesn't count. Last point, the citizens of this township do not have a way to communicate with the three officers of this township anymore. We had it pre-covid; we need to get it back. That means that you need to start holding office hours. And 3-5 on Monday afternoon, in my opinion, is not acceptable, when the people you are supposed to be serving are the people are typically out earning a paycheck so they can pay their taxes. So you need to think about that. One day a week, one day a month, hold them in the evenings so people can show up and talk to you. Those are just my opinions, but you all need to start communicating,..with each other, so that these people don't have to come out on a cold night to talk to you and defend their position. Thank you.*

From Webster dictionary on-line

Definition of *kerfuffle*

: a disturbance or commotion typically caused by a dispute or conflict

Cam Mannino (Stewardship Volunteer and frequent author of Natural Areas website)

"The Parks Commission, I just want to reiterate something I've said to you before, that the Parks Commission should not be considered just another department of the Township over which you have authority. The people elect seven Parks Commissioners every four years and charge them with making decisions to preserve our parks and natural areas. The Parks we have, as was said tonight is a tribute to the high quality of their initiative and stewardship in doing that. The public provides the land preservation millage to acquire, preserve, protect and manage that land. The PRC identifies the properties for acquisition, brings millions of dollars into the Township by finding matching grants to assist in buying those lands. And I'm glad to hear you guys appreciate that. Those grants require a detailed description of what work will be done in the parks to restore them to a state in which they can be healthy and provide environmental services that the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the PRC strive to promote for the benefit of our residents and the plants, animals, birds and other wildlife that live in our parks and natural areas. You can find this if you look in the grant for the first lost lake and for the second lost lake, that they require very detailed information about what work will need to be done in those parks. Now, when elected, none of you were expected to have either expertise or a serious interest in understanding all things, how to acquire parks, how to restore,

manage and maintain them. The people elect the Parks Commissioners with that special interest and focus and they hire skillful and knowledgeable staff that has that expertise. If at points along the way, and I want to reiterate what John Markle just said. If at points along the way, you, or of course any resident of the Township have concerns about any work being done by any Parks staff, you certainly have the right to ask the Commission for an explanation. They have always willingly provided that explanation in the past. So, I just think it's important for the communication to be going two ways and for the different areas of expertise in these two bodies to be recognized. And I ask you to continue to respect our Parks Commission's authority and expertise and if anything comes up that concerns you, please communicate that to the appropriate people, before you take any drastic action. Thank you. It seemed like quite a drastic one when we read your work today, Dan.

Jim Fostee (Parks Stewardship volunteer)

"Jim Fostee, 3400 Hixon, I think that what is on the mind of some people is the coincidence, perhaps that this incident was proposed on the heels of an incident that happened in the preserve that involved the pruning of the red maples that the parks were trying to thin in order to promote biodiversity within that nature preserve. And that leads me directly to what has already been said. We have a lot of surface area surrounding those parks that are inhabited by people who are very interested in living next to a park for whatever reason. And they are very impacted by what happens there. These are not professional forestry management people at all. And perhaps they don't understand, or don't like or have objections to things that are going on within the parks that they have an absolute right to voice and need answers to. If there is some way, and I don't know if this is possible within your capacity Parks and Rec Commission might be given a mandate to form a committee to meet whenever is necessary to liaison between the Parks program and the citizens of the township so that questions can be answered. If they come to you, you can then refer them to the Parks program committee that would help them understand what is going on in the Parks, why they are doing certain things, because the red oaks are a native plant to be sure, but there is problems with the red oaks in the sense that they decrease the amount of bio diversity because they are very aggressive. Things like that ...(member of audience corrects him on tree species) ...maples, I'm sorry. So that the understandings that need to help people who are not professionals in the area could be passed along. That's something to do with communications, so that people aren't at each other's throats over something that perhaps can be solved fairly easily with discussion. That' all.

Craig Blust (PRC Treasurer)

"Craig Blust, 2222 West Buell, also Parks Treasurer, so I'm very involved in and knowledgeable about what we are talking about. First of all the resolution that you're hopefully getting rid of because truthfully a resolution is not needed to do what you need to do. Your job is simply to review and approve or review and deny the purchase or development of this property. This resolution is not needed to do the bits and pieces that we do or the bits and pieces that you do to make this all come together. The resolution that was written was not discussed or written or discussed with the Parks Commission, so I want to make that clear. It was just basically stated and put on an agenda for tonight meeting and then posted to the public which it was supposed to be, properly. Also, Mr.

The Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion Red Maple Girdling Situation, 2/20/2022

Dan Kelly answered on of my questions, who wrote it, he wrote it. The only problem is I hope you get paid because if you wrote it under land preservation money, we don't have any budget for legal, so I'm not sure how you're going to get paid. (Board commenting inaudibly). *Oh, you're going to take it out of general fund.*

You also need to read the MNRTF grant, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, if you read the application...

Clerk Robin Buxar - *We signed the application*

Craig Blust (PRC Treasurer) - *"Did you read it..."*

Clerk Robin Buxar - *Yes, I signed it.*

Craig Blust (PRC Treasurer) *...because in that it says (Mr. Blust reading from a document) "Site Management- Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission will use funding from the township's land preservation and parks 10 year millages, which total approximately two million dollars in tax revenue annually to manage the Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion in support of ecological values, public access and recreation. See attached proposed maintenance plan. The Oakland Township parks and recreation Commission will manage this additional property in accordance with the existing Lost lake Nature Management Plan using existing Oakland Township Natural Areas Stewardship and Maintenance staff and contractors. Oakland Township Parks and Recreation includes a staff of 10 employees, four seasonal employees who report to the elected Parks and Recreation Staff Committee.*

This is what you told the grant application people that this is what you would use for site management. Now, you're saying, I got your money, now we are going to only use land preservation people, which is the four people. So now you're going to just use our Stewardship group, because you didn't want to use Parks and Rec Committee funds, which we've already stated we're happy to do so, which we budgeted for, for this park. So please consider that. You've already promised somebody, that you ask for their three millions dollars in support of this township and its residents, then you kind of changed it a little bit in what you think you are proposing, Hopefully that's all going to get changed and /or throw the whole things out (holding up the resolution) and lets just work together. So that's in there and that was in the actual proposal requirement. So that's what we told them we would do. Now we are telling them we might be doing something different.

Editor's note: This is the part from page 19 of the grant application that Mr. Blust likely read from.

Supervisor Dominic Abbate – *"You are at 3 minutes."*

Craig Blust (PRC Treasurer) - *"And it know my three minutes is running out, so , it's probably up, but in the same regard I want you to realize there's a long laundry list of additional items that you need to consider. We don't need this to work together, OK (Holding up a copy of resolution). We need our voices and we need to talk to each other. We will be meeting tomorrow and we'll be glad to have you, if you want to come in talk, if it's not on the agenda, you can speak at non-agenda items and we'll make conversation. We'll appreciate the help.*

Supervisor Dominic Abbate - *"Ok, thank you very much".*

Dan Simon, (Parks Commissioner, Chairman of Stewardship Committee)

“Dan Simon, 800 East Snell. First of all to Mr. Kelly, I don’t think you read the 90 page trust application, you’re completely blown away from what you put in that resolution about how we got that park

Supervisor Dominic Abbate – gavel sounds, ***“Excuse me”***

Dan Simon - ***“Yes, sir”***

Supervisor Dominic Abbate motions to Clerk Buxar

Clerk Robin Buxar – ***“You are supposed to be talking to the Supervisor, you are not addressing our attorney”***

Dan Simon – ***“Alright, Ok, Mr. Supervisor, I think Mr. Kelly has not read that 90 page article, In it, it specifies we’re adding this property to the 58 acres that we already have called Lost Lake Park. This is supposed to be a park. In this application we named it Lost Lake Nature Park. (Reading further from the application) “Is it open to the general public – YES”, we have all the hours that it is open. “Will they be able to access the site? Yes with automobiles and bicycles. What kind of recreation. We’ve got water opportunities, trails, hunting opportunities and you’re taking that all away? It’s just not right. And I know we have bunch of new people on this BOT, you’re invited February 23rd to the Cider Mill. We’re going to have a wonderful presentation on what the stewardship plans are for this wonderful Oakland Township. So, seven O’clock I think its seven O’clock, 23rd, please all of you show up and learn what it takes to stewardship our Parks. Thank you.***

Treasurer John Giannangeli – ***“Now you know why we need the resolution.”***

Clerk Robin Buxar – ***“Wow”***

Treasurer John Giannangeli – (repeats) ***“Now you know why we need the resolution.”***

Bob Yager (Resident)

- I suggested a comprehensive agreement be worked out to end the confusion created by the Elected Township Parks Commission Law that puts the Parks Commission and Board at odds due to the law’s ambiguity.

Reg Brown

“Good evening, Reg Brown 3666 Locust Drive, This is a lot different discussion than I thought we were going to be having tonight. It’s the same topic but a very different discussion based on the action you took. I’d like to build on two things, one what Craig Blust talked about, communications, I think that’s one of the things that could really help us. This like came out of the blue and it’s like ‘WOW, What is this? And it’s very dramatic looking. So that’s one thing. The second thing, that I think is a very valuable idea that when you step back and do some communicating of some of these things that have

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been suggested, maybe you'll conclude that are resolution like that is not necessary or appropriate. I would ask you to think about that. I think one of the reasons that this comes to the fore is that there is a lot of history and a lot of people don't know it and I'm not going to try to give you the whole history, but I see Mr. Giannangeli smiling. It goes back to April 1st, 2013, I think it was when the Township Manager at the time was directed by the Supervisor, Supervisor Gonser to write a letter to the Parks Commission. I have a copy of it here, saying them, flatly without any discussion, "We are taking over the whole land preservation fund and we are managing it." Now when that is the history and a lot of people involved in this know that history, where is their suspicion immediately when something like this happens? Of course it was answered within days by the then Parks Commission Chairman, Mr. Mackley, with a letter that looks like it was written with some attorney input that this is not going to happen, you are not going to do this. Then there was a lot of discussion between the parties and we moved forward and that Supervisor, next election, was not re-elected. So there's that and again. Mr. Giannangeli, I know I'm addressing the whole Board, not just you, but I don't know if you remember, but when the budget discussion came up last year, I got up and raised the question, "What's this money that was taken away from the Land Preservation fund. I don't want to misquote you, so you will correct me if I do. You said yes that's true but they still have budget for legal assistance in their base plan. But that won't help in this situation, I hope it doesn't get to that where the Parks Commission feels they need legal representation to deal with this matter. Let's hope it doesn't go there. Oh, three minutes? OK. Thank you for listening.

John Reed (not a township resident, 4 year Stewardship Volunteer)

Mr. Reed gave his home address -

"No that's not in your township, but I'm a volunteer. I am one of the volunteer stewards, along with Jim, he wouldn't take credit when he stood up. I've been four years in your parks. We have been restoring (Editor's note – Mr. Reed emphasized that word) the parks. You do not want a nature preserve, you want a nature park. The land that's out there now is in need of work, it is being worked on. You have a fantastic department of Parks and Rec. You fund them, you give them the ability to do their job. Please let them do the job. I read that resolution, and I know where the background..., where that got started, because Jim and I were out there in the park that day, January 11th, Lost Lake, and I met one of the neighbors and he asked me what we were doing. "We're thinning the park of these red maples to anticipate a better growth of the natural underneath." Things happened immediately after that. One very new member of Oakland Township, they moved in in June, has created a lot of what I believe this resolution is based on. I'm not going to mention names, but I want you to know there was a reason why this came up in a very strange and very fast way. So, just a volunteer, not even from your community. You have a great Parks and Rec. You have a great crew of people doing it. Let them continue to do their job. Listen to a lot of these comments. That resolution made no sense to me. It shouldn't be approved, thank you.

Cathy Rooney (Parks Commissioner)

“Cathy Rooney, 1080 Oak Hill. I stand before you as a resident and a Parks Commissioner as well. I support so much of what has been said tonight in terms of communication. I think the thing I would like to point out is, as a Park Board Commissioner and you are the Board of Trustees, we’re supposed to be partners in this. There shouldn’t be this much animosity. When this sort of thing comes out from the resident he mentioned why didn’t you reach out to anyone on the Park Board anyone on the day-to-day, the boots on the ground at the Parks and Rec, anything, This just came out of left field, so , I don’t know you want me to wait Robin or not? We should be partners all working for the same thing, for the betterment of the parks. And that’s what I’m a little shocked about today. Sometimes some stuff gets put through in a not very above board way and then we have this. So please can we just go back to what this whole thing was intended for the betterment of the parks and that we represent the residents that elected us. They want use of the parks. Thanks.

PRC 2/9/22 meeting

Public Comment

“Good evening, Drew Moore 1285 Lake George. My wife Kimberly addressed the Commission at the last month’s meeting about the girdling of the trees at Lost Lake Expansion. I want to use my opportunity to speak tonight to number one clarify a few things and number two put a few things on the record, especially in light of the events last night at the Board of Trustees meeting. There we some accusations and insinuations directed at myself and my wife which were not only misleading but they were blatantly false, especially from the volunteer who was the one doing the girdling of the trees. I continue to stand by our previously stated concerns that a stewardship of any public park should be done in a deliberate manner and the elected officials as well as the public should be made aware ahead of time of any action that is going to have significant long-lasting structural effects to any public park. It was clear, based on the events of the prior Commission meeting, that many including the Parks Manager as well as the commissioners were unaware of the scope of the work being performed, which lends credence to our concerns that the stewardship work was not being appropriately supervised.

Kimberly had addressed the Commission that night and I had addressed the Commission and Parks workers in an email afterwards with photographs as requested by Commissioner Simon. That’s where the issue ended; at no point did my family or any representative of my family contact the Board of Trustees regarding the matter. I understand the concept of chain of command, trust me. And I feel that we addressed our concerns through the appropriate channels at the appropriate time. If the Board was made aware of the situation or our situation was the basis for the resolution, it must have been from watching this video, or someone else forwarded my email. The volunteer suggestion that it was I who brought the issue to the Board of Trustees is not only false, but it approaches slander. In

The Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion Red Maple Girdling Situation, 2/20/2022

addition, I'd like it to be known that unlike the volunteer, my wife has been a citizen of this township for the majority of her life. Furthermore, we were unaware of the Board's resolution until yesterday when I read the submitted packet for the planned meeting. Had I known that people were going to make accusations against us I would have been present to speak. Regardless, I want to make it explicitly clear, that when we purchased our property we had scrutinized the 90 page grant application, in detail. Hence part of the reason that I was familiar with the stewardship plan stated in that and was familiar that what was being done didn't exactly meet what was outlined in that plan. Our expectations at the time that we purchased our property was that it would be accessible to the public and it would be actively maintained by the Parks Dept. as described in the grant application. But to echo the statement made by many, it seems like the common theme of failure here is communication. All that we have requested at any point in the past and hopefully in the future is communication between our elected officials and township employees to all of the public, not just us. Thank you.

Chairperson Emily Barkham – *“Thank you, any other general public comment?”*

Editor summary – Commissioner Blust wanted to make sure that Mr. Moore would be made aware of the meeting when Dr. Ben would be explaining his plans for Lost Lake. Chair Barkham said that PRC planned to set this date/time at agenda item #13. Commissioner Blust asked Mr. Moore is he was OK to wait until then in this meeting to hear about this planned meeting, Mr. Moore said he would stay.

Commissioner Simon – *“I'd like to know what format we can use to address the general public on things like this work. The general public may not go to the website every day, every hour to see. The general public doesn't get emails directed to them for every occurrence. I can see newsletters, things like that, the come out twice a year, that's really not often enough...”*

Director Milos-Dale – *“Four times a year, but I do want to say, Cam Mannino back here, working with Dr. Ben does a wonderful website called Oakland Naturalareas.com, which is basically our natural areas website. She puts on a lot of informational type articles. (She went on to describe the website) There' also educational articles and that's one place you can get that type of information. We try and hold educational programs; every winter Ben does several; he brings in several speakers We have speakers, we just had one on hummingbirds; we had one on pollinators. So we do try to educate.*

Commissioner Simon – *“Can we have one on volunteer girdling of red maples at Lost lake Park”*

Director Milos-Dale – *“We can certainly ask Dr.Ben if that would be something he could do for us.”*

Commissioner Simon – *“OK”*

Director Milos-Dale – *He leads the prescribed fire and that's a major training. I don't know why we couldn't do other types.*

Commissioner Simon – ***“What was Cam Mannino’s website.”***

Director Milos-Dale – ***“Oaklandnaturalareas.com; that is actually our website, but Cam is nice enough as a volunteer to do many of the articles and photography and it’s a fabulous, fabulous website.***

Commissioner Quesenberry – (There was microphone trouble, this is my best effort to transcribe)
“Commissioner Simon, something we are taking up in the Communications Committee will allow better two-way communication. I think that’s something that’s missing. We’re not always getting input when and where it’s necessary and hopefully that is something we will address. You can imagine that residents who have a concern in a local area will have a method and mechanism to communicate that..

Commissioner Simon – ***“But it seems to me though, Jim, that a daily work schedule would have to be on that communication. He may not know that he’s going to doing this, um.....”***

Chair Barkham – ***“A daily work schedule is a bit much because things could change depending on the weather. ...”***

Commissioner Simon – ***“Right”***

Chair Barkham – ***“...so it would be very difficult to put out a daily schedule of what would be happening. We could address it as maybe a monthly schedule that would be happening and these are the dates we’d be anticipating***

Commissioner Simon – ***“I see, so we could say is we are going out there soon to do this work at lost lake and make it aware that’s it is going to happen”***

Chair Barkham – ***“Yes, I think we can do something similar to that. I don’t think a daily one would work. And we can put out dates, however sometimes they are rained out.”***

Commissioner Simon – ***“Oh, I understand***

Chair Barkham – ***“So it’s not a guarantee, if we put it out, things like that happen, other things might come up that are more important. Sometimes something emergency-wise happens and something else in a different park has to be taken care of before that happens***

Commissioner Simon – (Addressing Commissioner Quesenberry) ***“So things like volunteer work will be happening “the week of at Lost Lake, something like that...”***

Director Milos Dale – ***“That is in our newsletter, we do post all of our volunteer workdays, and that is a learning opportunity, because its typically a variety of things from seed collecting and cleaning, to cutting of invasive shrubs to pulling invasive plants, etc. A lot of people come not only to get outside but also to learn more about it and apply it to their own yards***

Commissioner Simon – *“Ok, thanks”*

Treasurer Craig Blust – *“I’m good, because Jim touched on a point where electronic communications, we always used emails and emails are awesome; but in a year’s time emails change, and or the list is. I used to send emails all the time to people and I had a list of 200 some odd people and within a two year time it was down to 120 because emails change, people move; you don’t know where people are. But there could be some kind of communication and we’ll work on that is our committee in order to regenerate this where we can get that electronic communication and anybody that wants to sign in., Maybe it still is email; I’m old school, I like email, but it’s just tough to say mass email to everybody and they’re all like “can you please take me off your list, I’ve got enough of your emails. I know I signed up for it, but you’re driving me crazy” So we have to find something where the information is there for the people to find it; but not be that person that is sending emails, sending emails, sending emails because somebody might want it and then they are like “can you please take me off your list”, that’s what ends up happening. We have to find a good solution for everybody, because we want for people to go in the parks. That’s the main thing about what we’re trying to accomplish here is, we’re not trying to limit the use of our parks; we are trying to encourage all of the use of our parks.*

Commissioner Simon – *A good example is whenever we do a burn at a park, all the residents that are on the perimeter of that park get postcards saying, “the park will have a burn, this is the date planned, if the weather is good it will take place” The fireman are there. All the people are aware, because of the smoke generated, so we don’t get emergency phone calls and ambulances sent out, things like that. So we do something in mass mailing.*

Commissioner Judy Workings – *“I think what Dr. Moore was expressing and I could be entirely wrong, but there was no oversight on the stewardship and Dr. Vanderweide went ahead and did girdling of trees without the permission of the Parks and Recreation Commission or the Parks Stewardship Committee. It’s not necessarily a communication between the Board of Trustees and Parks and Recreation Commission or whatever. It’s more of “what is the approval process”. Because what happened was there were trees over 6 inches in diameter that were girdled and we have in our Township a tree ordinance and you cannot girdle trees over six inches in our tree ordinance if you have acreage over 25 acres. We have acreage over 25. I know these things because I am on the Planning Commission and we deal with developers all the time with trees. So if you if you decide to take out a tree that’s over six inches that’s a healthy non-invasive tree that you either have to pay in inches or you have to replace in inches and that is the crux of the problem here. Now we have trees that basically the parks has to pay or replace. So what happened was this. I was at the Planning Commission meeting and since we had our consultants there, I asked the consultants, “What is the process now that we have a Steward who deals with all of our parks and we have a lot of parks and a lot more parkland. Obviously when the tree ordinance was written, it was written prior to us having a Steward and no one, even on the Parks and Recreation Commission would have thought that a Township Steward would girdle a tree above 6 inches. And now here we are. So I asked our consultants, our Environmental Consultant and our Planning Commission Consultant, “what type of amendment or how do we address this with the tree ordinance with this situation, because in the future they may be other trees that may need to be removed or not. What do we do; how do we handle this; we’ve never dealt with this before”*

Chair Emily Barkham – *“I believe Treasurer Blust was first and then Commissioner Simon.”*

Commissioner Craig Blust – *“Let me take this back a step; there was oversight on this work; it was Dr. Ben. He’s our Stewardship responsible party. This is not uncommon; this is standard procedure. The difference is the size and the scope. Relative to the size of the park it’s not a big issue. It’s not a big difference from doing phragmite control. Basically it’s doing stewardship work. We don’t get asked every time Dr. Ben wants to go out and do his job, that he’s been asked to do, that we give him oversight to do. He doesn’t need to come and ask me if he needs to pull Russian Olive trees out of the doggone way because they are an invasive species. We know the stewardship he’s doing and the girdling. We understand it, but we just want to understand it better. And that’s the purpose of what we are doing. The tree ordinance, it’s good that you’re investigating it, but that’s not what the tree ordinance is about. If you re-read the tree ordinance, and one that was established not within the last ten years. The tree ordinance is for large development. It’s also not for private residents. It’s also not set for stewardship work within our own parks. I don’t want to debate it here. It’s something we all have to understand and investigate deeper, which we will do. And it’s good that you started the conversation but again we’re not here to debate it when we don’t know enough about it to say, “yay or nay” and replacement of trees and all that discussion is for possible future discussion, not now”*

Commissioner Dan Simon – *“The tree ordinance doesn’t apply in this case at all. Dr. Ben has full authority based on the trust fund application TF20-0206. This is a 90 page document. In it, he is allowed to go into different parts of that park that hasn’t been stewarded for a hundred years. And certain areas, because of different terrains and different soils, there are invasive species that are to be removed according to this trust fund application. In the area where the girdling took place, that area is designed as oak, mainly oak trees. The black cherries and red maples are invasive. They should have never been allowed to develop in that area in a good steward park. And it’s on page 50 and 53 in the trust fund application, giving Ben full authority to girdle or drill and poison invasive trees based on good stewardship principles, when you want to re-establish the main plant that is supposed to be in that area, for the first time in 50 or 60 years. The red maples just took over; they invaded. They don’t belong there. And I maintain he did the right thing, and it’s based on good science, and the tree ordinance doesn’t apply, because it gives him permission in this application that was approved by the DNR and we won that trust.*

Commissioner Craig Blust – *“Can I ask that we put this on a future agenda item when Dr. Ben is here and we have the proper information?”*

Chair Emily Barkham - *“I would like to address this. I was going to bring this up at my commissioner’s report, but since this came up now, I will address it now. I have pages 50 through 53 in front of me and was going to read a few excerpts this evening. This is from our MNRTF application which was approved by us as a Parks Commission as well as the Board of Trustees and it is part of the maintenance plan.*

Chair Barkham read this excerpt from page 50 of the grant application

The Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion Red Maple Girdling Situation, 2/20/2022

- The canopy should gradually be opened by annually removing approximately 20% of the red maple and black cherry trees greater than 8" DBH. Trees could be girdled and left standing or cut in the winter (when the ground is frozen) and removed from the site. In either case, the girdle or cut surface should be painted with a concentrated solution of herbicide.

Chair Barkham added, ***"These can take from one to two years for the trees to die once they have been girdled. This is done so that we can slowly open the canopy from where they were to help increase natural habit. Also in the management actions it is stated"***. Chair Barkham then read #5 below.

Management Actions

1. All upland areas should be swept annually for garlic mustard and dame's rocket plants. Pulled plants should be hung off the ground (earlier in spring) or bagged and removed from the site (later in spring, when pulled plants can produce viable seed). The largest patches of garlic mustard were seen adjacent to the parking lots and toilets.
2. Patches of Asian bittersweet should be sprayed in late summer. These are scattered throughout the park. View map for known locations.
3. Reed canary grass and *Phragmites* should be herbicided where they are found near Tamarack Lake and along the creek joining the two lakes.
4. In the southern wetlands, shrubs should be cut, herbicided, and brush hauled from the site. Wood chips should not be blown into natural areas.
5. There are numerous dead young red maples as a result of the two recent prescribed burns. However, the west side of the park near the bend in Turtle Creek Lane is quite shaded by larger maples and cherries. 20% of these two species could be girdled or "drilled and filled" annually for four years to increase light levels here.

Chair Emily Barkham continued, ***"Now this is approved by the Board of Trustees as well as Parks and Rec Commission per that grant application. So this was already approved work to be done. Yes Mindy?"***

Director Mindy Milos-Dale – ***"Can I just ask a question? I couldn't quite hear you, did it say to girdle the trees greater than 8 inches?"***

Chair Barkham – ***"Yes"***

Director Mindy Milos-Dale – ***"I would just like that on the record"***

Chair Emily Barkham – ***It also says we can do annually, 20% annually for up to four years. And this is approved of by the Township Trustees as well as the Parks Commission. And again, this is done in order to slowly open the canopy. If we just cut everything down, it's just going to shock everything. By girdling, it will go slowly because it will take time for the trees to die.***

Any other questions or concerns?

Minute 42 (Approximately 7:42 PM)

The meeting dealt with other agenda items before taking up Agenda #13 at time 2:18 (Approximately 9:18 PM)

From the agenda

13. For Approval: Special Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting for Review of 2021 Natural Areas Stewardship Accomplishments and 2022 Stewardship Priorities

Chair Emily Barkham – ***“Our proposed date is February 23rd. We are inviting the Board of Trustees as well as they have expressed an interest to be briefed on this topic as well. And that way all of us could be there at the same time to hear the same information***

Commissioner Craig Blust – ***What day is the 23rd?***

Chair Emily Barkham – ***“February 23rd is a Wednesday, I believe we would be aiming around 7 o’clock just as we normally would***

Commissioner Craig Blust – ***“That’s fine”***

Chair Emily Barkham – ***“Go head Commissioner Simon”***

Commissioner Dan Simon – ***“They were invited last night at the BOT meeting”***

Chair Emily Barkham – ***“Yes but we are officially doing it as a Parks and Rec Commission tonight. You did that last night”***

Commissioner Dan Simon – ***“So are we going to send them a letter or something”***

Chair Emily Barkham – ***“We will be notifying them by email I believe***

Director Mindy Milos-Dale – ***“I can send it to Adam Kline and he will forward it”***

Chair Emily Barkham – ***Any other comments or concerns, questions? Is everybody able to make it that evening?***

Commissioners said they could

Commissioner Dan Simon – ***“It’s going to be at the Cider Mill?”***

Director Mindy Milos-Dale – ***You know, I have been remiss in asking. Can anybody look it up on the Township calendar and see if there is a meeting here that night? I don't think there is typically on the fourth Wednesday of the month.***

Unknown – ***"No there isn't."***

Director Mindy Milos-Dale – ***So it will likely be in here unless there is something else going on then we'll have to have it at the Cider Mill. I think it will be here."***

Cam Mannino – ***"Is the public going to be notified of this meeting and if so, how?"***

Chair Emily Barkham – ***This will be a publicly noticed meeting; you are welcome just like at our regular Parks and Rec meetings. It's not going to be a private meeting. So it will be posted in our normal fashion.***

Director Mindy Milos-Dale – ***"I think it would be good to have a motion"***

Chair Emily Barkham – ***"Yes, but I was just answering the question."***

Director Mindy Milos-Dale – ***This would not be a committee meeting; this would be a special meeting of the Parks Commission***

Chair Emily Barkham – ***"Right"***

Commissioner Craig Blust - ***It'll be on the Township website?***

Chair Emily Barkham – ***As long as we approve this, yes.***

Commissioner Craig Blust made a motion and Cathy Rooney seconded it to have the meeting as described in comment above.

Chair Emily Barkham – ***"Any comment? Any public comment?"***

Bob Yager indicated that he's like to have some "Stewardship 101" at this meeting, if possible, so he can better understand the goals of stewardship.

Drew Moore of 1285 Lake George Rd. – ***"So I'm going to use my opportunity here, my couple of minutes here to comment on stewardship since I think it applies to that meeting. Commissioner Simon made an interesting point earlier, he said, when we were talking about the maples, "That's not the way that land was designed in the 1800's". I just thought that was an interesting statement, designed by who? God, Mother Nature?"***

Commissioner Dan Simon – ***"Mother Nature, of course"***

Drew Moore – *“This goes beyond the concept of red maples. This goes to the concept of “What is stewardship?” So stewardship is a subjective idea and I heard some comments about Dr. Ben is the Steward. Basically we have entrusted him to do what he needs to do or what he wants to do. And that is really the point, it’s what he wants to do. And you have to be careful with that. Dr. Ben may be great, but Dr. Ben is on paternity leave and maybe he decides he wants to stay home and be a stay at home father. So then you hire Dr. Joe or Dr. Tom or Dr. Laura or whoever. And maybe this person comes in and says you know, in 1800 this was on oak savannah, but in 1300 this was a prairie. And Dr. Laura goes out one day and kills all the oak trees because she wants to make it a prairie. That’s where you have to be careful because stewardship is not always a good thing if it is not correct. And that’s where there needs to be oversight. I’m sure there are some historians in here. I’m sure there’s some people familiar with history. Lots of really bad things have come in the name of stewardship. Chairman Mao thought he was a steward of natural areas. And he didn’t like sparrows. And why didn’t he like sparrows? Because sparrows spread disease; they weren’t good for the farmers. So what did they do? They killed all the sparrows. And then what happened? What happens when you get rid of sparrows? Locusts don’t have anything to eat them. And what happens when you have unopposed locusts? Well they wipe out all the crops. And that was a simple decision that ended up with the deaths of tens of millions of Chinese. And I’m not saying killing red maples does that. This is not what I’m saying here. What I’m saying is that is a subjective idea that has long-lasting permanent effects if it’s not done correctly. So whoever the Steward is, needs to have oversight, just like Commissioner Workings was implying that I was saying. So, that’s it, thank you.*

Commissioner Dan Simon – *Could I ask a question of Dr. Moore? Oversight, how would you even come up with an idea on how to do oversight? Would you have to go out and hire somebody qualified from U. of M. or University of Kentucky or Doug Talami (sp?) from Delaware?*

Drew Moore – *“Well, I don’t think it has anything to do with credentials. I think it has everything to do with the fact that who employs the steward? The Township does. Who makes the decision about the running of the Township? You do, the Board of Trustees does. The people who are elected by the citizens to do that. So if any Township employee is going to do something that is going to change the nature of the Township for a generation, they should have to bring that before the people who employ them. It’s no different if someone decided that they didn’t like a road and they were just going to bulldoze it one day. You can’t do that. When you kill a tree that’s 150 years old, that’s important and it’s not reversible. It’s not the difference between planting wildflowers or this or that. I’m not saying that killing red maples was a bad decision. But I’m saying that it was a decision that should have been approved by this board.*

Commissioner Dan Simon – *“But this decision to let him do that was approved by qualified people at the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Trust Fund. They saw the whole 90 page plan and approved it and gave us the money to carry that plan forward. So they are our oversight by giving us that grant. Who’s better qualified than the folks running the state of Michigan. Should they be oversighted?*

Drew Moore – ***"If we want to get nuanced, they approved 20% annually of the trees and that's not what was done in that area. We don't need to get too nuanced, but what was done there was not what was approved in the verbiage of the grant. And that's the point that before anything major is done it should be brought not in some obscure grant, not in something that was a year ago. It should be brought up, if for example, the Steward decided that he wants to clear-cut one of the other parks, because he wants to do something, I think it makes sense that it's brought before the Board and the Board says "Yes, we agree" and the public should have an opportunity to comment on that, is all.***

Commissioner Craig Blust - ***Just a short note. We go back a little to oversight. We did review the grant and the grant clearly stated that what he's done is within the application. We've approved the grant. The Board of Trustees approved it. So, he is acting on behalf of what we've already approved. Granted, we want more defined information. That's why the February 23rd meeting has come about. Because it's got value added. It's a natural progression. So I don't want to make it sound like we didn't approve it and Dr. Ben acted on his own free will. He doesn't. He has to act on behalf of what our director requests of him, what we request of him and what the Board of Trustees also oversights. So it is a natural, and this one just needs a little more time and attention. I just didn't want you to think that we don't have oversight, because in the grant the details say what he should do. And it was reviewed by us and reviewed by the MNRTF. So there is a process. This park, part of it just needs more attention. That's what we're going to give it on February 23rd. So make sure, yourself, your wife anybody in the neighborhood. Pass the information on. Public input is a huge part, which you didn't include in the process. So what you are doing and what your wife has done are huge assets to what we need to know.***

Drew Moore – ***Thank you, I appreciate that. But I had read the grant and this is where I bring this up. I had read the grant. I knew what the grant said. So when I walked out there and saw 100 % of the trees were girdled, I knew immediately that was not what was in the grant, so my whole is moving forward. I don't want this to happen again. It has nothing to do with Lost Lake Expansion, It has everything to do with this Township. You shouldn't have one person making permanent changes without everyone being aware.***

Director Mindy-Milos Dale -***"Can I just say one thing? You know, nobody's mentioned the Stewardship Committee, which I have three Commissioners who are on it. So, would any of the Commissioners who have served on the Stewardship Committee please let the public know what you typically do every year. Commissioner Simon, are you not the Chair of the Stewardship Committee"***

Commissioner Dan Simon – ***"Yes"***

Director Mindy-Milos Dale – ***"OK, because that's an important part of going through every year, in fact at this very time of the year we're having a presentation to the Parks Commission that normally goes to the Stewardship Committee and then they bring recommendations to the Commission. Ben goes through an entire plan for the entire year of every stewardship task he wants to do at every park. He doesn't just go off and do these things on his own. He gets your approval, so, please I would like somebody to indicate that, because it's a major thing. And it just happens that this year that all this happened at the exact time when we usually have this Committee meeting, which is, by the way all of***

our meetings are publicly noticed, so anybody could participate in them. And it just happens that all this happened at the time when we would normally be planning everything for this upcoming year. So we had our last one in February 2021 where we talked about the entire planning for the upcoming year. So there's a lot of oversight.

Commissioner Judy Workings – “Actually I looked at our notes from that meeting and there was nothing about anything from Lost Lake in those notes at all. And I can send those emails to you from our meeting.

Director Mindy-Milos Dale – “I’m not talking about just one park, I’m talking about an entire plan for all of our parks. Now I can’t remember frankly, my memory’s not that good that I can remember from a whole year ago exactly what happened

Commissioner Judy Workings – “I guess where I am going with this is that from my perspective, and this is just my perspective, the Stewardship Committee was not aware that these trees were going to be girdled. It was not talked about in our Stewardship meeting. Other things were, but not that. Then we received this grant with all of this information in it, and are we going to say “no, we don’t want this grant?” Of course we are not going to do that. However it would have been helpful if the Steward, prior to writing all this information in the grant that he wanted to do, if he would have just talked about it first. Because I do believe what Dr. Moore says, that Stewardship is a somewhat arbitrary thing. It’s that specific person’s vision. He could have written something entirely different and it still would have passed in the grant, because the State of Michigan would love to give us money for property. So, I think the oversight should have come prior to the writing of the grant.

Commissioner Cathy Rooney – I’m on the Stewardship Committee. Can I just say something quick here, because what I see happening is Dr. Ben is getting thrown under the bus here (turning to address Dr. Moore) and this is not who he is. I assure you. I’m on that Committee. And there is no one more diligent and detailed oriented and more passionate about what goes on in our Parks and doesn’t want to hurt, wouldn’t do anything crazy. What happened was, there was a pocket of time the grant came in and we all read it and this happened while he was away. it was all simplified, in the sense that we knew it was going to happen. But when your wife came in we were very grateful. I didn’t know exactly what park she was talking about, so I said ‘OK, let’s pump the brakes. There was no..... and I know you’re not saying ill intent... but I want to make sure everyone knows Dr.. Ben does not just go off and do what he wants. On that Stewardship Committee and I’ve been on it for years, he lays out the most detailed plan with photographs, exactly where it is in the new park. This happens to be new park, and we just didn’t have that meeting, all of Covid, in the right time. So I love your concern, but I want you to know and I want you to be there on the 23rd, there is no one who loves this area and wants to do the right thing. And I’m sure he is just dying right now and wants to get his verbiage in as well. No, I want you to know that, because he is such a man of integrity and I don’t want to see him get thrown under the bus tonight, because that is not fair. It’s really not. And I’m not saying that you’re doing it. I’m saying it’s collectively starting to happen. So I just want to make sure, and I know we all love him and he does such a great job here.

Dr. Moore – “Yeah, I don’t think it has anything to do with Dr. Ben. I think it has everything to do with just... governance.”

Commissioner Cathy Rooney – ***“I understand, I do understand what you are saying. And you make valid points. I want you to know that there is a lot of trust, not only in him, but the truth is that the Board of Trustees and us really do look at everything, and really do watch this.”***

Commissioner Dan Simon – ***“I’ve got two quick comments (addressing Dr. Moore) Bring your questions. Why did he accelerate the girdling to the 23rd, I’d like to find out that too, because I saw the percentages too. I thought maybe he was trying to catch up with Mother Nature. The second comment is, if you get on his email for the volunteer distribution list, you will find out everything that is going on, on the volunteer efforts. He will tell you a couple days ahead of time. He’ll say- “I’ll give you a weather report the morning of” and if it’s a “go”, you’ll get an email in 7 in the morning, and you’ll meet. He’ll tell you exactly where to meet, what to wear, bring a lunch. He’ll have clothes, equipment, everything you’ll need to do that volunteer project. But get on that list. I’m on it, I’m sure you’re on it (pointing to a commissioner). That gentleman who spoke, he’s a volunteer, he’s on it, John Reed, he’s not even a resident. So, by all means get on Ben’s email distribution list for volunteers. OK, end of story.”***

Dr. Moore – “I’ll get on whatever email list I can. I was on Mindy’s but that didn’t work.”

Commissioner Dan Simon – ***“If you want to know, that’s how you get to know”***

Treasurer Craig Blust – ***“Dr. Ben did an amazing job presenting all the resources in that park, so even though the stewardship was one question, he came here, I think two different times when we were talking about grant funding and the value of that property and its natural resources. And he went through the bog, he went through so many details, the plants, the habitat, the butterflies. I mean we knew everything about land that I didn’t know about land that was about a mile from my house. And there were no details that I remember being missed. And there was absolutely discussion of how you have to work on the habitat and restoration. That was part of the discussion. Did he go and say the canopy needs to be reduced by this amount for this reason at this location in detail? No, because we were doing the grant level of information. But upon that proposal it was detailed what would be required by us as owners of this property to bring it to fruition for the public and to do it properly. That was always his intent and so we’re going to have a lot to talk about on the 23rd”***

Director Mindy-Milos Dale – ***“They’re doing a lot of work out there on invasives. You couldn’t see Clam Lake from Lake George Road because of all the phragmites. And with all the phragmites removal they have done you can actually see the lake.”***

Editor’s note: Director Milos-Dale went on to describe other invasives currently being removed at Lost Lake Expansion. She said of the six Stewardship managers she has had, Dr. Ben is the best.

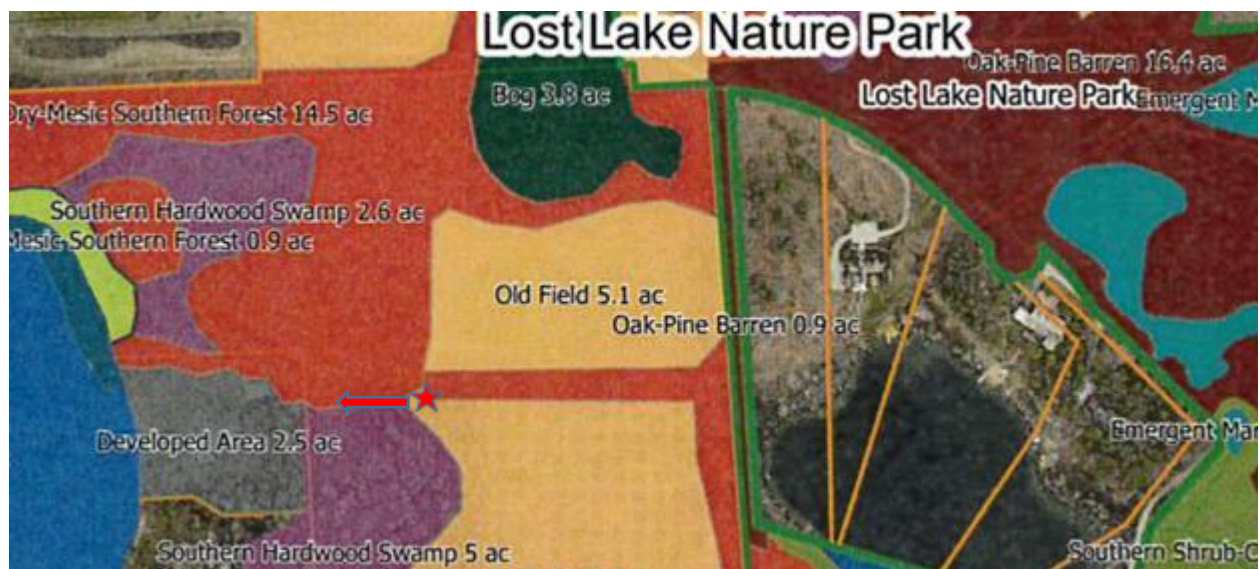
2/17/2022 - Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion Amateur Tree Survey by Bob Yager

By Bob Yager 2/17/22

(This was sent to BOT and PRC via email on 2/17/22)

Purpose: To have a common understanding of how many and what size trees were girdled at the January 11th Maple Tree Girdling

Here are the results of my tree survey today, before the snow. This is the area near Dr. and Mrs. Moore's home at 1285 Lake George Rd. where the January 11th girdling was done by Stewardship volunteers. It's the 14.5 acre tan-colored Dry-Mesic Southern Forest on page 23 of the grant application. 1285 Lake George Rd. is the gray area called "Developed area- 2.5 acres" below.



The red star above shows where I was standing on park property. The red arrow is the direction my camera pointed, down a road/drive made by previous owners. You can see an outbuilding or garage belonging to the Moore's in the photo below taken there.

Photo taken as described on page 47. The tree girdling is in the woods to my right, left of the “Old Field”



Here is a photo looking into the woods standing about 40 feet in off the road in above photo.



Below is the first girdling seen when walking toward the Moore's home.



Below is a typical area of smaller girdled trees. Look closely and you'll see light bands where the trees were girdled. I have pointed a red arrow at one. I see 22 in this photo. This is farther in from the private road/drive.



My survey results.

Diameter	Number of Trees	Estimated Age (Years) (Diameter x 4.5)
1"	19	5
2"	58	9
3"	79	14
4"	67	18
5"	31	23
6"	31	27
7"	7	32
8"	7	36
9"	0	41
10"	7	45
11"	0	50
12"	1	54
13"	1	59
14"	1	63
15"	1	68
16"	0	72
17"	1	77

The survey method:

I surveyed 125 trees by actual measurement. I used the Biltmore method of a ruler unless the tree was close to or over 6". In that case I used a tape measure to get an accurate circumference and divided by 3.14 to get the diameter.

I penciled in a number (1-125) each tree at or below in the red spray paint area so I did not count a tree twice. The number of trees then overwhelmed me and snow was predicted. So I estimated the totals by these steps

1 - I looked for large trees 10" or greater and got all those counted. These were mainly on the north side near the open area designated for active recreation. (I may have missed some.)

2- Then I counted the remaining trees getting a total of 300. (My count could be off.)

3 - Then for the not-large trees less than 10" I multiplied my 125 tree sample results by 300/125 to get totals for that smaller size range.

Here is my 125 tree hard data, no estimates. Diameter in inches on left, tree count on right. These were measured at 4.5 feet above ground with ruler held at arm's length up to tree and sighting with one eye.

1	8
2	24
3	33
4	28
5	13
6	13
7	3
8	3

Land Preservation Millage 2020 Renewal Ballot Language and Vote

STATEMENT OF VOTES		CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND			
The whole number of votes given for and against the		Put figures in this column			
Renewal of Land Preservation Millage					
Shall the Charter Township of Oakland be authorized to renew a levy of up to 0.6310 of one mill for a period of ten (10) years starting with the December 2021 levy for the purpose of continuing to provide funds and financing for the timely acquisition of land, the protection of natural habitat, and the preservation of green spaces within the Township? Approval of this proposal would renew the previously authorized tax limitation increase of approximately 63 cents per \$1,000.00 of taxable value on all taxable property in the Township. Revenue from the levy renewal shall be disbursed to the Charter Township of Oakland. Based upon the projected 2021 Township wide taxable value, it is estimated that this proposal would result in authorization to collect up to \$924,318 of revenue in the first year (2021) if this millage renewal is authorized and levied.					
was	Nine thousand five hundred fifteen	9	5	1	5
of which number	Six thousand five hundred twenty-one	6	5	2	1
votes were marked	YES				
and	Two thousand nine hundred ninety-four	2	9	9	4
votes were marked	NO				
TOTAL VOTES		9	5	1	5

Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission

OAKLAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm - VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE GOTOMEETING

Please take notice that this meeting of the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission will be held as an electronic videoconference through the "GoToMeeting" platform. Electronic remote access, in accordance with Michigan law, will be implemented in response to COVID-19 social distancing requirements and limitations on the number of individuals in a meeting hall. The public may participate in the meeting by computer, tablet or smart phone using the following link:
<https://www.gotomeet.me/OaklandTownshipParksandRecreation/stewardship>.

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (786) 535-3211

Access Code: 739-690-637

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<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/739690637>

Members of the public will only be able to speak during the General Public Comment portion of the meeting and during agenda items after Commissioners have discussed the item. Such comment from the public will be limited to three minutes per person. To provide for orderly public participation, a person wishing to speak must state their name and request to be recognized by the Committee Chairperson. The Chairperson will recognize all persons wishing to speak during public comment. Public comments may also be e-mailed to parks@oaklandtownship.org prior to 4:30 pm on the date of this meeting to be read aloud at the meeting either during the agenda item to which the comment pertains or during the General Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation will provide reasonable and necessary auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities with advance notice. Please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at parks@oaklandtownship.org or 248-651-7810 at least 24 hours in advance.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval/Amendments to the agenda
4. Public Comment for items not on the agenda
5. For Recommendation: Stewardship Committee Chair
6. For Review: Minutes from January 13, 2020 Stewardship Committee Meeting
7. Discuss: Review of Natural Areas Stewardship Program
8. Discuss: Highlights 2020 Natural Areas Stewardship Accomplishments
9. Discuss: 2021 Natural Areas Stewardship Priorities
10. Adjournment

Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission

DRAFT MINUTES

OAKLAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm - VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE GOTOMEETING

1. Call to Order

7:02 pm

2. Roll Call

Dan Simon (OTPRC Commissioner), Cathy Rooney (OTPRC Commissioner), Judy Workings (OTPRC Commissioner), Maryann Whitman (Stewardship Committee Citizen Advisor), Mindy Milos-Dale (Parks Director), Ben VanderWeide (Natural Areas Stewardship Manager)

3. Approval/Amendments to the agenda

Agenda amended to add item 9b "Commissioner Reports."

4. Public Comment for items not on the agenda

None

5. For Recommendation: Stewardship Committee Chair

Dan Simon selected as Stewardship Committee Chair.

6. For Review: Minutes from January 13, 2020 Stewardship Committee Meeting

Approved. Commissioner Simon commented that he would like to try to implement a pilot project in the farm fields at Watershed Ridge Park, as staff time and resources allow, to try to resolve some of the wet spots without tiling. He would like to use the approach pioneered by Mark Shepard, author of "Restoration Agriculture: Real World Permaculture for Farmers." This approach involves contouring the land to slow down water and allow it to soak in, instead of running off quickly into nearby lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Other members of the committee expressed their interest in the project and would like to learn more about the approach. NASM VanderWeide and Park Director Milos-Dale suggested that consulting with someone experienced with this approach would be important for a successful trial.

7. Discuss: Review of Natural Areas Stewardship Program

NASM VanderWeide presented background information about the Natural Areas Stewardship Program, reviewing OTPR mission and vision statements, explaining the four focus areas of the stewardship program (priority invasive species control, ecological restoration, monitoring, and outreach), and exploring the historical oak barren/prairie/oak woodland landscape that cover most of Oakland Township circa 1800.

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- **Priority Invasive Species Control:** Goal is to control or eradicate all known locations of priority species within Oakland Township Parks. Most are not currently widespread in parks, though they may be common regionally. Current list includes Phragmites, Japanese Knotweed, Crown Vetch, Swallow-worts, Wild Parsnip, Teasel, Black Alder). Control accomplished by detailed mapping of locations, annual monitoring, and treatment of all known locations. Most locations have been in control program since 2014 or 2015, so treatment time is reasonable compared to the damage if species were allowed to grow unchecked. Commissioner Workings asked if oak wilt on priority list. NASM VanderWeide explained that no known locations exist, and park staff actively work to prevent infestations through best work practices.
 - **Ecological Restoration** includes high-quality natural areas restoration, forestry mowing, and prairie & wetland restoration/reconstruction. NASM VanderWeide showed examples of each, PCHA-Wet Prairie since 2004 as an example of high quality natural areas restoration, forestry mowing at Bear Creek Nature Park, and prairie reconstruction at Charles Illsley Park. Advisor Whitman inquired about the herbicide treatment follow-up process in forestry mowing areas.
 - **Monitoring:** The purpose of monitoring is to document baseline conditions and changes over time due to management or other causes. We currently do photo monitoring, botanical inventories, and special targeted surveys. Gallagher Creek Park Phragmites patch photo monitoring shown as an example.
 - **Outreach:** The purpose of outreach is to build community and support for the ecological restoration in our parks, and restore connections between people and the land. Natural Areas Notebook, Volunteer Workdays, Park Stewards, Prescribed Fire Volunteer Crew, Prescribed Fire Outreach Program, Wednesday Bird Walks, Winter Stewardship Talks, Parks Seasonal Newsletters, Native Plant Sale, Phragmites Outreach Program. Partnership with Oakland County Cisma, OU Professors, MI Vernal Pool Partnership.
8. **Discuss: Highlights 2020 Natural Areas Stewardship Accomplishments**
- **2020 Priority Invasive Species Control:** Only completed garlic mustard work in 4 areas – Wet Prairie, BCNP north, Blue Heron center, Lost Lake Nature Park. Treated all known Phragmites, crown vetch, swallow-wort, teasel, parsnip, and Japanese knotweed. Completed initial Phragmites treatment at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park expansion (big effort using targeted methods to reduce off-target damage).
 - **2020 Ecological Restoration:** In 2020 completed control of mature invasive shrubs, canopy thinning, and large fuels reduction at PCHA -Wet Prairie. Hand-wicked cattails at PCHA-Fen. Hand-pulled invasive shrub seedlings in oak-pine barrens at LLNP. Completed targeted Phragmites treatment at SCRNP expansion.

Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission

In 2020 completed forestry mowing along Paint Creek Trail right-of-way, Mill Race Trail, Bear Creek Nature Park, Marsh View Park, Draper Twin Lake Park, and Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park expansion. Completed follow-up spot treatment in prior forestry mowing areas at Bear Creek Nature Park, Draper Twin Lake Park, Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park, Paint Creek Trail, and Mill Race Trail.

In 2020 Finalized grant agreement with USFWS for work at BHEA, WRP, and SCRNP. Completed earthmoving for wetland restoration at BHEA and WRP. Postponed planting at SCRNP due to COVID-19 and limited staff time during growing season.

- 2020 Monitoring: Completed photo monitoring at scheduled parks. Completed botanical inventory at Draper Twin Lake Park, documenting bog and fen natural communities that were not included in the 2010 Plantwise management plan. Oakland University researchers completed pollinator surveys at Draper Twin Lake Park and Charles Ilsley Park, and did targeted moth surveys at Wet Prairie and Gallagher Creek Park to look for suspected populations of rare moths.
- 2020 Outreach: Continued programs listed above. Several outreach events postponed/cancelled in spring 2020 due to COVID-19.

9. a. Discuss: 2021 Natural Areas Stewardship Priorities

- 2021 Priority Invasive Species Control: Complete garlic mustard priority areas. Treat all known Phragmites, crown vetch, swallow-wort, teasel, parsnip, and Japanese knotweed. Complete initial treatment of Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion Phragmites. Plan to have contractor treat several patches (very large, or in low-quality areas). Contractor sites nominated for treatment with OC Cisma. Stewardship staff will complete targeted treatment in high-quality areas and small patches.
- 2021 Ecological Restoration: Complete follow-up spot treatment of invasive shrubs in north unit at Wet Prairie. Hand-wick cattails at PCHA-Fen. Complete prescribed burns as planned at Wet Prairie, Lost Lake, Watershed, Charles Ilsley Park, Paint Creek Trail Units. Begin initial treatment of Phragmites and invasive shrubs in fen and bog at Lost Lake Nature Park expansion.

Forestry mowing planned for Cranberry Lake Park, and 1-2 days needed to complete work that was started at Stony Creek Ravine expansion in 2020. NASM VanderWeide showed potential forestry mowing areas at Lost Lake Nature Park expansion. These additional areas would need to be included as a change order to the existing forestry mowing contract with Habitat Restoration LLC. All Commissioners agreed to recommend this additional mowing to full PRC.

2021 Prairie/Wetland Restoration - Install seed at BHEA and WRP in spring. Maintenance mow 2x in summer. Prep 2021 planting areas at Stony Creek Ravine

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Nature Park and install seed in the fall. Explore recontouring gravel pit just north of hunter parking area.

- 2021 Monitoring: Complete scheduled photo monitoring. Create new photo points for Lost Lake Nature Park expansion. Complete botanical inventories at Charles Ilsey Park and Cranberry Lake Park. Explore bringing MNFI in to do targeted surveys for insects and reptiles.
- 2021 Outreach: Continue current program. Assess which are providing effective outreach.

b. Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Simon reported that “critter crossings/turtle tunnels” have been used effectively to reduce wildlife mortality at roads. He would like us to explore adding one at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park as part of the entry drive installation and connection to Stony Creek Metropark. Begin discussion with Road Commission, HCMA, etc. Commissioners and staff voiced support for the idea.

10. Adjournment

9:20 pm

Minutes recorded by Ben VanderWeide, Natural Areas Stewardship Manager

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K - Other Reference Material

Tree Ordinance Excerpts

Editor's Note: The tree ordinance <https://ecode360.com/29651632> makes these exceptions.

§ 389-11 **Exceptions.**

Notwithstanding the requirement of §§ **389-6** through **389-10**, the following activities are permitted unless otherwise prohibited by statute or other Township ordinances.

A.

Agriculture exception. Tree removal or transplanting occurring during use of land for agriculture or the operation of a commercial nursery or tree farm, provided this exception shall only be applicable if the commercial nursery or tree farm has been licensed with the state and in operation on the property for three years or more, or the property owner records an affidavit that the commercial nursery or tree farm shall continue in active operation for a period of no less than five years.

B.

Conservation of natural resources. Conservation of soil, vegetation, water, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.

C.

Emergencies. Actions made necessary by an emergency, such as tornado, windstorm, flood, freeze, dangerous and infectious insect infections or disease, or other disaster, in order to prevent injury or damage to persons or property or restore order.

D.

Public utilities. Repair or maintenance work performed by public utilities necessitating the trimming or cutting of trees.

E.

Dead or damaged trees. Removal or trimming of dead, diseased or damaged trees, where the damage resulted from an accident or nonhuman cause, and provided that the removal or trimming is accomplished through the use of standard forestry practices and techniques.

F.

Residential parcels containing less than 25 acres. Tree removal or transplanting occurring during the use of the parcel in support of one residential dwelling and permitted residential accessory uses. All contiguous land owned in common shall be included in the acreage calculations. This provision shall not exempt such parcels from regulation under the terms of this chapter at the time of application for approval of site plans, plats, site condominiums, and land divisions as outlined in § **389-4A**.

G.

Outdoor recreation. Outdoor recreation such as the utilization of field trails or woodlands on publicly owned property for nature study, hiking, horseback riding, trapping and hunting as otherwise legally permitted and regulated.

H.

Tree management. Where a tree management plan, prepared by a state registered forester, or registered landscape architect, is submitted to and approved by the Township Supervisor, after consultation with the Township expert, tree cutting may occur without a permit. To qualify under this exception, tree management activity shall be for the purpose of reducing the density of trees so as to promote and maintain the health and viability of the remaining trees. The management plan shall include the means by which cut trees shall be removed from the property without damaging remaining trees. The person seeking approval and exemption under this provision shall establish an escrow with the Township Clerk for the purpose of covering the cost of the Township's expert.

Also **389-12 D(4)**

Forest management. An owner may be granted a tree removal permit for the purpose of maintaining and improving a woodlands area by professional forestry management methods. Applications for this permit must, in addition to the information listed in Subsection **C(2)(a), (b) and (c)** of this section, be accompanied by a management plan for the subject area prepared by a forester licensed and registered in the state. The management plan shall include a

description of and a schedule for the program, justifying reasons for the work specified, and a summary of the benefits to be obtained. Work under a forest management use permit shall be directed by a licensed and registered forester. Under the forest management use permit, provisions of this chapter which are applicable solely to development or land clearing activities shall not apply. The Township shall not levy any fee for this special permit.

2022 Draft Stewardship Plan – page 14 of this 2/23/22 meeting packet

<https://ecode360.com/documents/OA3183/public/646332345.pdf>

Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Master Plan and Appendices

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/parks_and_recreation/docs/Oakland%20Township%202020%20-%202024%20Recreation%20Plan%20-%20Official%20Copy%20-%20without%20appendices%20-%20reduced.pdf

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/parks_and_recreation/docs/Oakland%20Township%202020%20-%202024%20Recreation%20Plan%20-%20Official%20Copy%20-%20Appendices%20Only%20-%20Reduced.pdf

2021 Natural Areas Stewardship Update.

<https://oaklandsentinel.files.wordpress.com/2022/02/document-2021naturalareasstewardshipupdate.pdf>

MNRTF Application TF20-0206 and photos

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/parks_and_recreation/docs/PRCLostLakeNatureParkTF20-0206MNRTFGrantApplicationAndAttachments.pdf

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/parks_and_recreation/docs/PRCLostLakeNatureParkTF20-0206%20MNRTFGrantApplication2020July-AugustSiteVisitPhotos.pdf

Natural Communities of Michigan, Description and Classification – very informative, there are 77 named communities, for example Oak-Pine Barrens and Dry-Mesic Southern Forest. 322 pages.

<https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/reports/MNFI-report-2007-21.pdf>

Stewardship Page on Oakland Township Website

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/parks_and_recreation/stewardship.php

Board of Trustees Resolution Approving Grant Application

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 – SPECIAL MEETING

PAGE 2 of 2

PENDING BUSINESS

1. Resolution for Grant Application TF20-0206 to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

MOTION by Buxar, supported by Ferriolo to approve Resolution 20-24 For Grant Application TF20-0206 to The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bailey, Buxar, Ferriolo, Giannangeli, Langlois, Mangiapane
Nays: None
Absent: Reilly

Motion carried 6/0.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was no public comment.

RESOLUTION 21- 11

**A Resolution Regarding the Acquisition of Property
Through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund**

At a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Oakland Board of Trustees held on Tuesday June 8, 2021, upon motion made by Trustee Zale, seconded by Trustee Mabry, the following Resolution was adopted:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Oakland, in the County of Oakland, Michigan, does hereby accept the terms of the Agreement for TF20-0206 as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DEPARTMENT), and that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Oakland does hereby specifically agree, but not by way of limitation, as follows:

1. To appropriate all funds necessary to complete the project during the project period and to provide One Million Twenty-Seven Thousand (\$ 1,027,000) dollars to match the grant authorized by the DEPARTMENT.
2. To maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records to make them available to the DEPARTMENT for auditing at reasonable times.
3. To construct the project and provide such funds, services and materials as may be necessary to satisfy the terms of said Agreement.
4. To regulate the use of the facility constructed and reserved under this Agreement to assure the use thereof by the public on equal and reasonable terms.
5. To comply with any and all terms of said Agreement including all terms not specifically set forth in the foregoing portions of this Resolution."

The following aye votes were recorded: Abbate, Buxar, Giannangeli, Elder, Mabry, Mangiapane, Zale

The following nay votes were recorded: None

The following were absent: None

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, Robin Buxar, Clerk of the Charter Township of Oakland, Michigan, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution relative to the Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which Resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Oakland at their regular meeting held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., virtually via GoToMeeting with a quorum present.

Signature: Robin Buxar
Title: Clerk, Charter Township of Oakland

Dated: 6-9-21