

# Oakland Township Sentinel

Sunday, April 3, 2022

Bob Yager – Editor

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## **Board of Trustees (BOT)**

### **March 22, 2022 Meeting Summaries**

Here is a link to the minutes.

<https://ecode360.com/documents/OA3183/public/652765700.pdf>

<https://ecode360.com/documents/OA3183/public/653125008.pdf>

There were important discussions and citizen comments that should have been recorded in these minutes.

These three residents listed below who live near or on the eastern border of Lost Lake Nature Park had concerns and questions about stewardship natural area restoration and preservation work and future plans for the park. One presented photographs of what concerned him and Clerk Buxar held them up for the camera. One resident was their HOA President.

Emily Barkham, Parks and Recreation Commission Chairperson was present and briefly answered their questions about where to find the written-on-paper plans. (At the Parks Office). She explained where it is located.

Jim Jaikins – 1247 Cayuga Trl  
Chuck Morical – 1498 Tamarack Ln  
Clinton Maxfield – 1113 Cayuga Trl

The two residents listed below expressed concern about lack of enforcement of building rules about controlling construction debris and heavy marijuana use on a construction site near them:

Matt Vivona – 5151 Brewster Rd  
Jondasual – 5151 Brewster Rd

This resident expressed concern that promised road information had not been sent her. Manager Kline determined he had used the wrong email address. Mrs. Mulawa had made numerous comments at Board meetings recently about Gunn Rd's poor condition that go unrecorded in minutes.

Teresa Mulawa – 580 E. Gunn Rd

These people listed below expressed concern about various aspects of the Parks Budget changes made unilaterally by the Board –

Emily Barkham – 717 Letts Rd (Parks and Rec Commission Chairperson)  
Craig Blust – 2222 W. Buell Rd (Parks and Rec Commission Treasurer)  
Reg Brown – 3666 Locust Dr  
Cam Mannino – 3666 Locust Dr  
Bob Yager – 1146 Bear Creek Ct

PRC, PC, SPTC, ZBA, HDC provide good minutes that summarize public comment and board or commission discussion. Only the BOT insists on minimum transparency in their minutes. It is not the fault of the Recording Secretary. It is the result of a bad Board decision on March 12, 2013.

***“MOVED BY BAILEY, SECONDED BY REILLY, to adopt the MTA Short Form minutes for future meetings. AYES : GONSER, REILLY, LANGLOIS, BAILEY, KEYES, THALMANN  
NAYS: MCKAY ABSENT: NONE MOTION CARRIED.”***

This creates minimum understanding by residents who attempt to read minutes to follow affairs. The Board should change its policy so that what you say as a resident is summarized as part of these minutes as it once was.

If you want to review a topic from before March 12, 2013 minutes will help you greatly. After March 12, 2013, the minutes provide only a sketchy view. This not decreases the public, but makes it almost impossible for a new Board member to adequately review fairly recent past issues that may be ongoing and requiring their understanding to make an intelligent vote.

### **Next meeting – April 12, 2022. 7 PM, Township Hall**

Be there to weigh in on Manager Kline’s letter to Parks and Recreation Director Milos-Dale about Lost Lake Nature Park. (See Parks below.)

## **Fire Department**

No news. Annual report expected soon.

Oxford Fire Department has an initiative called “Safety Begins at Home”. According to an Oakland Press, Monday March 28, 2022, detailed article on page 7 - ***“The program will focus on distributing and installing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms, free of charge, in homes occupied by Oxford Township and Village residents, particularly senior citizens who are 55 years of age and older.”*** Their local VFW Post 334 donated \$5,000 recently to the program.

## Historic District Commission (HDC)

### March 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

<https://ecode360.com/documents/OA3183/public/652788533.pdf>

**Next meeting – April 20, 2022**

### Board Accepting Applications for HDC Appointment

Apply to be appointed. Two HDC members' terms expire 5/22. See application at this link:

[https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS\\_AND\\_COMMISSION\\_APPLICATION.pdf](https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS_AND_COMMISSION_APPLICATION.pdf) According to the township website direct any questions to [mail@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:mail@oaklandtownship.org)

## Michigan Legislature

The Michigan House of Representatives has 100 members. It has 25 Standing Committees, 17 Appropriations Subcommittees, and 5 Statutory (required to have by law) Committees.

<https://www.house.mi.gov/Committees>

The Michigan Senate has 38 members. It has 19 Standing Committees, 6 Appropriations Subcommittees, and 7 Statutory (required to have by law) Committees. Link to committees page: <https://committees.senate.michigan.gov/>.

The time to support or object to legislation is when a committee or subcommittee considers it and invites the public to comment. Of those 79 committees and subcommittees we are attempting to follow only those that most directly impact local government. We are alarmed by past bills that passed and reduced the amount of local control our township has. For example we now have little control over fracking sites or new agricultural sites due to state laws of the past 20 years.

We intend to follow these committees.

### House:

- **Agriculture**
- **Education**
- **Local Government and Municipal Finance**
- **Regulatory Reform**

## **Senate:**

- **Agriculture**
- **Education and Career Readiness**
- **Local Government and Municipal Finance**
- **Regulatory Reform**

If you want to follow a bill committee or subcommittee go to this page and sign up for email notifications.

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(yenpah5qdfjwj2r2rmfzdaq\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=home](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(yenpah5qdfjwj2r2rmfzdaq))/mileg.aspx?page=home)

No new bills were considered in these committees this week

## **Parks and Recreation Commission**

### **Township Manager Adam Kline Orders Work Stopped on Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion - Special Informational Meeting April 7, 7 PM. Township Hall**

It appears to me that our Township Manager, Adam Kline, is trying to wrest control of the Lost Lake Nature Park 235 Acre Expansion from our elected Parks Commission in spite of state law that in my view gives the Parks Commission total control. The Board needs to consider his letter immediately. I am unaware of any public decision they have made authorizing this letter. Nor do I see control of Parks and Recreation as within the Manager's authority or the Board's authority per state law.

I am not a lawyer and this is not legal advice; but the following excerpt from state law seems to clearly state that the Parks Commission has **control**. Here is a link to the entire law:

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-Act-157-of-1905>

### **TOWNSHIP PARKS AND PLACES OF RECREATION (EXCERPT) Act 157 of 1905**

**41.426a Township park commission; authority generally.**

Sec. 6a.

**"The township park commission shall have authority to acquire, maintain, manage, and control township parks and places of recreation, including bathing beaches,....."**

Trying to reclassify Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion it as a "land preservation asset" or "grant property" to avoid the law will not work in my layman's view.

**Here is Manager Kline's letter -**

***"March 29, 2022***

***Mindy Milos-Dale  
Oakland Township Land Preservation***

***RE: Alterations to Fox Grant Property***

***Dear Ms. Milos-Dale: Based upon complaints from neighboring residents, it has come to my attention work is being performed on the "Fox Grant Property" ("Property"). You are hereby ordered to stop any and all work or other activities which have not been approved by the Township Board of Trustees.***

***As you are fully aware, the purchase of the former Fox Estate Property was authorized by the Board of Trustees under its sole authority and financed through the Township Land Preservation Millage. As such, the Property is owned by the Charter Township of Oakland and is under the sole authority of the Township Board of Trustees. As the Property owner, any clearing, landscaping, trimming, or any other work on the Property must be authorized and approved by the Township Board. By email, I have advised you on two prior occasions, March 3 and 10, 2022, that the Board of Trustees needs to approve any work being performed on the Property. To date, the Board of Trustees has not received nor approved any plan or other work, nor has a plan been submitted for approval. Any further work without Township approval will be considered a trespass and the Township will take any and all action necessary to stop the unauthorized activity.***

***It has also come to our attention you have indicated to the abutting Property owners a desire to meet to review future activities on the Property. You are***

***hereby directed to not represent or take any action that creates the appearance of authority over Township owed property. Any statement regarding future activities on Property which have not been specifically authorized by the Board of Trustees, will be considered a violation of this directive, which may result in disciplinary action. To be clear, you are not authorized to speak on behalf of the Charter Township of Oakland as it relates to any activities or the future plans regarding this Property.***

***The above direction to cease and desist all activities on the Property shall have immediate effect upon receipt of this correspondence. As you may know, I am out of town this week, but I have authorized the Township Administration, including Assistant Manager Jamie Moore and Building Director Tim Berger, to follow-up and ensure that no work is being performed on the Property until approval has been received from the Board of Trustees. I expect an immediate confirmation of your compliance with this directive.***

***Very truly yours,  
Adam Kline***

***Adam Kline  
Township Manager  
Cc: Jamie Moore Tim Berger***

This directive jeopardizes our (we the people's) compliance with the grant application and opening this park on time with all safety concerns addressed. This could, as a minimum, jeopardize our standing for future such grants. This park was purchased 75% with a \$3,000,000 Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund grant which was awarded with the understanding we would restore natural areas and reduce invasives as we promised to do in the grant applications (available to the public on-line since September 2020) that Mr. Kline was fully aware of and informed about.

[https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/boards\\_and\\_commissions/parks\\_and\\_recreation/docs/PRC\\_LostLakeNatureParkTF20-0206MNRTFGrantApplicationAndAttachments.pdf](https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/boards_and_commissions/parks_and_recreation/docs/PRC_LostLakeNatureParkTF20-0206MNRTFGrantApplicationAndAttachments.pdf)

See especially ***“Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion Maintenance Plan”*** pages 28-43 of the pdf.

## **Parks and Recreation Director Mindy Milos-Dale Response to Manager Kline:**

March 30, 2022

Adam Kline  
Manager, Oakland Township

RE: Confirmation of Receipt of March 29, 2022 Communication

Dear Manager Kline;

Upon receipt of your original March 3, 2022 email communication, all representatives of Oakland Township Parks and Recreation promptly suspended the natural area stewardship work at the Lost Lake Nature Park "Property" that had been previously authorized by the Parks and Recreation Commission, and I passed your email correspondence on to the Commission.

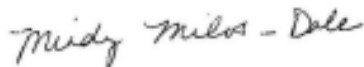
I am now in receipt of your March 29, 2022, letter. As you know, in January 2022, after touring this park property, the Township's Senior Risk Control Consultant created the attached list of safety recommendations which he indicated were necessary to prepare the "Property" for public access and recreation.

Parks and Recreation representatives had started to implement efforts to address this list of public safety recommendations, however, all work authorized by the Parks and Recreation Commission for this "Property", now also including these safety recommendations, has been discontinued for the time being at your direction, due to the threat of prosecution for trespass in your March 29 letter. And I have forwarded that correspondence to the Parks and Recreation Commission as well.

After the March 22, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting which was attended by multiple Parks and Recreation Commissioners, several Commissioners requested that an additional Parks and Recreation Commission meeting be held to communicate with Township residents; particularly those that surround Lost Lake Nature Park. As I understand it, the purpose of this meeting is for the Commissioners to discuss and review with interested residents the qualities of this "Property", its proposed management, and its proposed recreational use, all as stated in the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant project agreement, which was approved by the Board of Trustees and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Therefore, I have provided your directives to the Parks and Recreation Commissioners, as this additional meeting has been scheduled at their request.

You have made many statements in your March 3, 10, and 29 communications regarding this "Property", the authority of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the authority of the Board of Trustees. Please know that to my knowledge the Commission has not stated their agreement with any of your statements and conclusions.

Sincerely,



Mindy Milos-Dale, Director  
Oakland Township Parks and Recreation



## Letter from insurance company detailing needed safety work.

**RISK****MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITY**

January 14, 2022

Melinda Milos-Dale, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Oakland Township  
4480 Orion Rd  
Rochester, MI 48306

**RE: Lost Lake Nature Park Risk Review**

Dear Ms. Milos-Dale,

Thank you for meeting with me on December 17, 2021. The purpose of the visit was to conduct a risk control assessment of Lost Lake Nature Park proposed trails and newly bought property for liability and safety to augment your organization's risk management program. The scope of my review primarily addressed the following:

**General Safety Recommendations:**

- Provide separate access to the proposed parking lot instead of using the private road to access the lot.
- Provide signage on the roadway to show the parking lot entrance.
- Post a sign at the entrance to the private road stating - "Not for Public Use".
- Secure the farmhouse property as discussed and post signs stating - "Property Under Construction - No Trespassing". This will allow for enforcement of trespass.
- Secure the barn and surrounding buildings to reduce access from the public as discussed.
- Shut off the power to the barn and surrounding buildings to reduce the fire risk.
- Consider installing a security light at the barn.
- Inspect the barn and surrounding buildings for structural integrity. This will aid in the decision of repair, replacement or tear down of the barn and surrounding buildings.
- A structural integrity inspection of the metal culvert we reviewed should be performed. Prior to any use by the public, volunteers, contractors, or township employees. The culvert pipe was rusted out in spots. You may need to contact the State DEQ for improvements to the culvert or removal of it.
- If the culvert stays and use is attainable, a full barrier should be provided to reduce the potential for park users to fall into the water. There should be no opening more than 4 inches in the barrier.
- Post signs at the backside of the sled hill, where we accessed via a private subdivision and parked our vehicles to read as follows "No Parking - Private Subdivision".



- Provide a barrier on the trail access points for township maintenance vehicles and contractors. Post a sign showing it as a township vehicle access trail only.
- Post a trail kiosk at all trail head access points identified by the township. Consider a trail marker system for degree of difficulty and trail location in case of an emergency.
- Contact local emergency services to provide them with information on the property such as water hazards, buildings, trail maps and designated access points for their equipment in case they need to access the property and make a rescue or extinguish a fire.
- Develop an inspection and maintenance program for the trails promoted for use to reduce trip and fall incidents, or injuries by low hanging tree branches, as well as fallen tree branches causing a blunt force trauma hazard.
- Document any inspections, maintenance, or construction at the park. Store the records for three years and archive for seven years and then destroy unless related to a claim.

**MMRMA Services and Resources:**

MMRMA's risk control consultants specialize in public-entity risk management in all municipal areas, including law enforcement, fire/EMS, public services, corrections, and parks & recreation. In addition to onsite visits and consultations, MMRMA offers a library of model policies and other resources in the "Members Only" section of our website, [www.mmrma.org](http://www.mmrma.org). Member employees can request a login and subscribe to newsletters and training announcements and view upcoming committee meetings, training, and important deadlines.

MMRMA also helps members mitigate loss exposures through Risk Avoidance Program (RAP) Certification and accreditation (CAP) grants. Applicants can request reimbursement for specialized equipment, risk reduction initiatives, training, and accreditation programs. Details about RAP/CAP grants are available on the website. Please contact MMRMA's Risk Control team whenever you have questions about available services, training, or resources.

\*\*\*

I appreciate you and your staff making my visit productive and enjoyable. If I may assist you now or in the future, please contact me.

Sincerely,

*Terry Van Doren*

Terry Van Doren, CPSI, CYSA, CYSC  
Senior Risk Control Consultant

cc: Adam Kline  
Ibex Insurance Agency

I think this is urgent to resolve, the Board should meet immediately to clarify their position.. Please, no closed sessions on this one.

Parks and Recreation has scheduled a special meeting at 7 PM on April 7. No agenda is shown yet on the website. An informed source (not MMD) sent me this statement about the meeting

***“There is a special meeting next Wed, 4-7, at the twp hall, 7:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to inform residents of the work planned for the new part of Lost Lake Nature Park. They sent out 100 invitations to any neighbors around the park property.”***

### **Run for Parks and Recreation in August Primary, Filing Deadline April 19 or run as an Independent (little chance of success) filing deadline July 21.**

There is one opening due to the resignation of Maryann Whitman, elected in 2020 and replaced until December 2022 by Board appointment of Judy Workings.

Historically only Republican party candidates will win Oakland Township elected office in the November election, so the August primary is where all is decided; by as little as 10% of voters. (20% vote, 10-20% determines winner)

Partisan candidates must file their nominating petitions and affidavit of identity not later than 4:00 p.m., April 19, 2022. (168.349). Candidates without political party affiliation must file qualifying petitions and affidavit of identity not later than 4:00 p.m., July 21, 2022. (168.590c).

See more details on the township website here:

<https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/UPDATED%20Candidate%20Info%20Parks%20and%20Rec%20Comm.%20PARTIAL%20TERM%202022.pdf>

This office pays \$70 per meeting with about 1.3 meetings per month

## **Planning Commission (PC)**

### **Board Accepting Applications for PC Appointment**

Apply to be appointed. Two PC members' terms expire 9/1/22. See application at this link:

[https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS\\_AND\\_COMMISSION\\_APPLICATION.pdf](https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS_AND_COMMISSION_APPLICATION.pdf) According to the township website direct any questions to [mail@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:mail@oaklandtownship.org)

For more information about PC, see their webpage:

[http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards\\_and\\_commissions/planning\\_commission/index.php](http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/planning_commission/index.php)

**Next Planning Commission Meeting April 5, 2022, 7 PM, Township Hall**

No agenda available yet.

## **Problem-Solving**

### **Finding The Cause of a Problem; When It has So Far Eluded You**

Fifty-four years of investigating to find causes of defects in manufacturing of or use of products shows me that even with vast experience and technical knowledge, the cause(s) sometimes cannot be easily found.

The situation can arise that after these usual steps below are taken; the cause is still unknown:

- Investigating the things that usually cause this type of problem.
- Investigating possible causes from “brainstorming”
- Investigating all the possible causes suggested by Management

This can be a very serious situation. Entire businesses have been lost due to inability to locate the cause of product defects.

In this crisis situation, I recommend turning to “Problem Analysis” as first described in the 1965 book, “The Rational Manager” by Charles Kepner and Benjamin Tregoe. For a “do-it-yourself” effort, buy one of the several editions available on line for under \$10. I prefer the 1965 edition. But the 1997 is fine. Buy both.

Here are links to one source:

1997 Edition

[https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/the-new-rational-manager\\_benjamin-b-tregoe\\_charles-higgins-kepner/252860/item/8157026/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw\\_4-](https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/the-new-rational-manager_benjamin-b-tregoe_charles-higgins-kepner/252860/item/8157026/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw_4-)

[SBhCgARIsAAlegRxt2y0jsVtkdNg4Vl\\_uZvMNhzRpDZ6gkoDJKavoR-OJDkl3RhEfn0waAo7XEALw\\_wcB#edition=2506275&idq=1119196](https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/the-new-rational-manager_benjamin-b-tregoe_charles-higgins-kepner/252860/item/10827984/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw_4-SBhCgARIsAAlegRxt2y0jsVtkdNg4Vl_uZvMNhzRpDZ6gkoDJKavoR-OJDkl3RhEfn0waAo7XEALw_wcB#edition=2506275&idq=1119196)

1965 Edition

[https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/the-new-rational-manager\\_benjamin-b-tregoe\\_charles-higgins-kepner/252860/item/10827984/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw\\_4-SBhCgARIsAAlegRxt2y0jsVtkdNg4Vl\\_uZvMNhzRpDZ6gkoDJKavoR-OJDkl3RhEfn0waAo7XEALw\\_wcB#idq=10827984&edition=2046876e](https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/the-new-rational-manager_benjamin-b-tregoe_charles-higgins-kepner/252860/item/10827984/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw_4-SBhCgARIsAAlegRxt2y0jsVtkdNg4Vl_uZvMNhzRpDZ6gkoDJKavoR-OJDkl3RhEfn0waAo7XEALw_wcB#idq=10827984&edition=2046876e)

These books contain four outstanding “Critical Thinking Tools” as they would be called today. You only need the “Problem Analysis” section for cause-finding. The others are also extremely useful for other purposes.

Don’t be fooled by the age of these books. The logic is timeless, but too often it is not employed.

## **Safety Paths and Trails Committee (SPTC)**

### **Board Accepting Applications for SPTC Appointment**

Apply to be appointed. Two SPTC members’ terms expire 5/22. See application at this link:

[https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS\\_AND\\_COMMISSION\\_APPLICATION.pdf](https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS_AND_COMMISSION_APPLICATION.pdf) According to the township website direct any questions to [mail@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:mail@oaklandtownship.org)

For more info about SPTC see their webpage:

[http://www.oaklandtownship.org/township\\_departments/safety\\_paths\\_and\\_trails.php](http://www.oaklandtownship.org/township_departments/safety_paths_and_trails.php)

**Next SPTC Meeting April 6, 2022, 6PM, Township Hall**

## Schools

### Next School Board Meetings (Rochester, Romeo, Lake Orion)

**Rochester Community Schools** – Monday, April 11, 2022

<https://www.rochester.k12.mi.us/about-us/board-of-education>

**Romeo Community Schools**- April 25, 2022 6:00 PM

<https://romeok12.org/inside-rcs/board-of-eductionation/>

**Lake Orion Community Schools** – April 13, 2022, 6:30 PM

<https://www.lakeorionschools.org/board-of-education>

### State Law on Schools Puts Parents in Charge

#### THE REVISED SCHOOL CODE (EXCERPT) Act 451 of 1976

#### **380.10 Rights of parents and legal guardians; duties of public schools.**

Sec. 10.

It is the natural, fundamental right of parents and legal guardians to determine and direct the care, teaching, and education of their children. The public schools of this state serve the needs of the pupils by cooperating with the pupil's parents and legal guardians to develop the pupil's intellectual capabilities and vocational skills in a safe and positive environment.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 289, Eff. July 1, 1996

**Popular Name:** Act 451

#### The Revised School Code

Nearly 400 pages of state law about schools in Michigan

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-Act-451-of-1976>

## **Run for School Boards in November (Rochester, Romeo, Lake Orion)**

You must file some paperwork soon in order to run.

### **Rochester Community Schools**

There will be three School Board positions on the ballot. Contacts for help in filing to run depends on where you live:

**Oakland Township** - Contact Deputy Clerk Roxanne Thatcher (248-218-6953)

**City of Rochester Hills** – Contact City Clerk Leanne Scott, (248-656-4744)

**City of Rochester** – Contact City Clerk Lee Ann O’Connor (248-733-3700)

### **Romeo Community Schools**

There will be three School Board positions on the ballot Contact Washington Township Clerk Stan Babinski for help in filing to run. ((586) 786-0010 x251)

### **Lake Orion Community Schools –**

There will be three School Board positions on the ballot. Contact Orion Township Clerk Penny Shults for help in filing to run. (248-391-0304, ext. 4001)

## **Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)**

### **Board Accepting Applications for ZBA Appointment**

Apply to be appointed. Two ZBA members’ terms expire 9/1/22. See application at this link: [https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS\\_AND\\_COMMISSION\\_APPLICATION.pdf](https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS_AND_COMMISSION_APPLICATION.pdf) According to the township website direct any questions to [mail@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:mail@oaklandtownship.org)

**Next Meeting April 15, 2022**