



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119
<https://www.weesawtownship.net>



Special Board Meeting/Parks Committee Minutes
Wednesday, April 9, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: The Special Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Sommers at 7 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Sommers, Art King, Robert Warmbein, Michelle Tackitt; **PARK COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Metz, Terry Hanover, Jack Dodds (remote)

Grant Project Contract: Art King moved that Gary sign the Notice to Proceed (with the implementation of the contract); support by Michelle. All ayes. The price of the contract is \$249,178.00.

Members present discussed whether to omit the fire pit and concrete base from the pavilion plan, as their cost is not listed as part of the contract presented for signature. Members also discussed weather proofing and perma-posts for the picnic pavilion. It was decided to ask R. Yoder Construction for a cost estimate for the addition of these items.

Robert Warmbein moved that Gary sign the contract with R. Yoder Construction in the amount of \$249,178.00 to provide the scope items listed in the Recreation Passport Grant awarded to Weesaw Township. Support by Art King. All ayes.

WALKING PATH WIDTH: In preparation for the installation of the walking path on the old high school football field, the Board and Parks Committee discussed the proper width of the path, 6, 7, or even 8 feet. Art King suggested that an 8-foot path would provide temptation for someone to drive on it. Mike Metz moved and Terry Hanover supported a proposal for a 6-foot wide path. 4 ayes, 1 no. It was finally decided to ask the contractor for a 6-foot wide path but we would accept 7 feet depending on the equipment present to complete the job.

BRUSH PILE REMOVAL: Members discussed the two brush piles present in Weesaw Township Park. It was proposed to have a local contractor chip the brush in the woods at the north end of the park and leave the chips in place. Regarding the brush pile at the site of the old back stop at the south end of the football field, members discussed whether to chip that brush and distribute the chips at the edge of the open field or burn the brush. No decision was made.

BOG BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION: Members discussed the construction of a bridge or boardwalk over the wetlands in the woods at the northwest corner of the old football field. Mike Metz presented several examples of a boardwalk type of bridge and explained that EGLE (old DEQ) permitting was an issue here. The more complex the project, the lengthier and more detailed the permitting process. Gary Sommers focused discussion on the construction of this type of bridge, asking how it would be supported as it crossed wetland "muck" of uncertain depth. Mike explained the construction of a "floating" boardwalk, and Jack Dodds provided the drawing of this type of bridge provided by Michigan DNR. Terry Hanover volunteered to prepare a quote for a boardwalk.

Robert Warmbein introduced the possibility of using an old flatbed trailer to span the wetland, eliminating the need for supports anchored through the "muck." However, it was noted that the distance at this wetland crossing appeared to be greater than the length of a standard flatbed trailer.

Mike Metz made a motion for a 24-inch wide by approximately 60 foot-long boardwalk, constructed of wood, anchored in the hillside on each side of the wetland, and supported in the middle with posts sitting on concrete footings resting on hardpan soil. Support by Art King. Motion passed on a voice vote.

ADDITIONAL DNR DISCUSSION: Members discussed the extension of the hiking trail across the wetlands near the north/south property line on the west side of the park. Terry Hanover noted that the 5-acre parcel

on the south side of the Galien River at that location was up for sale. Members discussed the \$50,000.00 asking price for the property and whether it would be an appropriate addition to Weesaw Township Park.

Members also discussed whether to stop mowing the infield of the old football field and let it go to meadow or prairie, perhaps using it for a disk golf course. It was noted that creating a meadow involved more than simply letting the grass grow. Gary Sommers proposed letting the grass grow inside the walking path but controlling it with a chopper, especially if park users complained that the meadow interfered with their recreation. Mike Metz moved that the Township stop mowing the infield but maintain it as necessary with a chopper. Support by Gary Sommers. Motion passed with all ayes.

Robert Warmbein raised the need to begin discussing regulations for the use of the new features of the park: walking and hiking paths, picnic pavilion, and multi-sport court. Jack Dodds mentioned that he had been gathering information about these regulations and Warmbein requested that he continue.

Art King moved that the meeting be adjourned. Passed with all ayes.

Adjourn: 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Dodds
Weesaw Township Parks Committee Secretary