

GERRISH TOWNSHIP BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
GERRISH TOWNSHIP WITH LYON TOWNSHIP
SWIMMER'S ITCH
March 3, 2015

Meeting called to order at 2:00 Pm at the Municipal Center. Present from Gerrish Township Board: Supervisor Homola, Clerk Patchin, Treasurer Tulgetske, Trustee Link and Trustee Lippert. Present from Lyon Township Board: Supervisor Nellist, Treasurer Williams, Trustee DeHaan and Trustee Munoz. Absent: Clerk Reno. Also present: 5 citizen.

Discussed: Swimmer's Itch

-Supervisor Homola announced that Gerrish Township received a Federal Fish and Wildlife special purpose permit authorizing to lethally take up to 25 common mergansers ducks and to destroy up to 25 common merganser nests for the years of 2015, 2016 and 2017. Permit is renewable and will conclude by May 22 each year. Lethal take is not the primary means of control and active hazing, harassment or other non-lethal techniques must be used in conjunction.

-Trustee DeHaan inquired about scientific research to be able to show a reduction and how to measure results with a lethal permit.

-A resident inquired about the report or documentation of the study performed in the early 90's.

Discussed:

- Potential for a special assessment to fund Swimmer's Itch program.
- Blankespoor's Comprehensive program.
- Meeting set with Steve Sendek retired DNR specialist about a proposed program to potentially reduce swimmer's itch to take place March 4, 2015 at 10:00 am.
- Both Townships agree a program needs to be established to try to reduce swimmer's itch and are in full understanding that the swimmer's itch cannot be completely eliminated.
- Additional meeting set with both boards for April 7, 2015 at 2:00 pm at Lyon Township Hall.

Treasurer Tulgetske left meeting for prior commitments at 2:52 pm

Public Comments:

Residents inquired on the following:

Why any measures were being taken to reduce swimmers itch in Higgins Lake. Hand dipping various spots of the lake for scientific results on showing a reduction. Accurate results on showing a reduction with using current complaint system may show increase until complaint system catches up with reporting. Why the state of Michigan is not helping to fund any said reduction programs noting the state parks on Higgins Lake. Why monies are not being provided to help in research on swimmer's itch creams.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm

Kathleen Patchin, Clerk

Frank Homola, Supervisor

_____Approved