

GERRISH TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
October 13, 2015

Regular meeting called to order at 7:30 pm at the Municipal Center. Present: Supervisor Homola, Clerk Patchin, Treasurer Tulgetske, Trustee Link, Trustee Lippert. Also present: 40+citizens.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Tulgetske, supported by Link: CARRIED
That the agenda be approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Opened at 7:30 pm:

- Eric Ostergren presented a list of questions requesting a written response (See attached)
- Chuck Brick inquired if the Board was asked to approve the Northpoint Fisheries 2016 proposal. Board explained we did not have the proposal at our work session and that we were discussing funding and permit amendments for a 2016 program.
- Diane Wagner questioned work session motions.
- Linda Brick expressed her dislike for the 2016 Northpoint Fisheries Proposal. Questioned if the Board had actually researched Swimmer's Itch. Questioned if Dr. Luttenton was on previous proposal from Northpoint. Acknowledged that no tax dollars were spent on the 2015 program and were funded with grants and in kind services. Supports a tax for swimmer's itch plans. Concerns with ACT NOW acting as a fiduciary implies an endorsement.
- Tom Mutchler felt the agenda was confusing on actions being taken. He felt that the emails circulating were productive.
- Marianne Breidinger suggested both subcontractors work together on a program. Trustee Lippert explained that Treasurer Williams (Lyon Township) and Trustee Lippert were trying to set up a meeting with both contractors.
- Ken Dennings challenged ACT NOW as having the ability to act as a fiduciary. He conveyed that the HLPOA requests a Public Hearing on Swimmer's Itch programs.
- Glen Artz suggested changing dates of lethal take permit to after the completion of the SICON program. Supervisor Homola expressed that changing the dates would not be as effective and would cause true safety concerns.
- Bill Wickers inquired how we found Northpoint Fisheries. Conveying he felt Northpoint had no expertise in area and that Dr. Luttenton was not qualified.
- Trustee Lippert inquired about how many ducks that have been relocated return back to the lake. Ken Dennings said that SICON has banned the hens but the ducklings are too small to ban and they could expect an answer next year. Ken stated broods were moved in 4 to 5 days to imprint in a new location.
- Eric Ostergren felt that the natural nesting sites needed to be blocked with hardware and that nesting boxes draw more females to the lake and wanted scientific proof that nesting boxes work.
- Bill Wickers expressed concerns that nesting boxes added to the natural sites inviting more ducks.
- Tom Mutchler felt that Gerrish Township was ignoring the SICON report and wanted both organizations to work together.
- Dave Batchelor gave credit to Gerrish Township for taking the lead in implementing a program but felt that changing dates of permit would provide greater results. He felt that killing the ducks without providing the science was wasteful. He also credited Gerrish Township for actively pursuing regulations on reducing the nutrient levels in the lake which in turn would make it less desirable for snails.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Lippert, second by Tulgetske: CARRIED
that the Consent Agenda is approved as presented.

REPORTS: (See Attached)

- a. Trustee Link
- b. Trustee Lippert
- c. Treasurer Tulgetske
- d. Clerk Patchin
- e. Supervisor Homola

NEW BUSINESS:

Gerrish Township Fire Department update on emergency repair for Unit 244 due to failed pump test.

Motion by Homola, supported by Tulgetske: CARRIED
that the board approve Shannon Fick as a Gerrish Township Fire Department trainee effective date 10/13/15.

Motion by Patchin, supported by Link: CARRIED
that the board authorize Gerrish Township attorney Scott Hess to continue on the process of working on Lot 6 Hillsdale Heights.

Motion by Patchin, supported by Lippert: CARRIED
that the board authorize Supervisor Homola to look into funding and potential fundraising options for Lake Improvement Projects/Swimmer's Itch for 2016.

Motion by Lippert, supported by Tulgetske: CARRIED
that the board authorize Supervisor Homola to request an amendment on the Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit MB56627B-O to include an increase of lethal take of Common Merganser ducks along with allowing the trapping of Common Merganser ducklings and the associated hen.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Opened at 8:50 pm

- Dave Batchelor asked if the Gerrish Township Board is willing to consider changing the dates of the permit to maximize the benefits of both programs.
- Linda Brick inquired about the amended permit and concerns that harassment doesn't work.
- Karen Ostergren shared ideas of broadening the base to increase revenues for Swimmer's Itch
- Ruth Mutchler expressed her concerns that the proposal was not available to the public and didn't specify trapping dates or whom would be trapping. Expressed that she would like to see organizations work together and suggested moving the dates of the lethal harassment permit.
- Ken Dennings inquired on the enhancements to the permit and stated that all the HLSIO is looking for is changing dates in permit to after SICON had completed their efforts. He stated the HLPOA requests a public hearing
- Tom Mutchler expressed concerns pertaining to brood capture.

-Charlene Cornell felt the best was to cooperate was to change dates of the lethal permit for at least 1 year to see if it works. She requested the Board wait before applying for an amendment to our current permit. She expressed her feeling of working together on possible obtaining a 'Pure Michigan' grant. She asked if any of the Board had visited the Dragon Fly during any of their open houses.

- Dave Batchelor suggested a Public Hearing on proposals with suggestions of a special assessment to work together on a comprehensive program.

-Kevin Kessler offered to provide his scientific mathematical model of Swimmer's Itch for assistance.

- Eric Ostergren stated that Frank Homola was trying to take political credit for Swimmer's Itch program and are not open to any suggestions. He suggested more public input for Swimmer's Itch.

-A couple audience members asked the Board to rescind their previous motion on a request for an amended permit.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board amended previous motion.

Motion by Tulgetske, supported by Lippert: CARRIED
that the board authorize Supervisor Homola to request an amendment on the Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit MB56627B-O to include an increase of lethal take of Common Merganser ducks along with allowing the trapping of Common Merganser ducklings and the associated hen. The request for the amended permit will be submitted in 60 days.

Ayes: Tulgetske, Patchin, Lippert, Link

Nays: Homola

Public Comment:

-Bill Wickers expressed concerns that the board had not identified sources from which information was based on.

Motion by Lippert, supported by Link: CARRIED
that the board adjourns.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Kathleen Patchin, Clerk

Frank Homola, Supervisor

Approved