

WOODHULL TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING
JULY 14, 2025
TOWNSHIP HALL, 7315 BEARD RD, PERRY, MI 48872

APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting recorded exclusively for board secretary's use

Call to order: 6:30 pm

Open with Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Mr. Keith Youngs, Chairman – present
Mrs. Chelsea Moore, Treasurer – absent
Mrs. Alyson Bawks, Secretary — present
Mr. Adam Witzel, Trustee — present
Mrs. Katie Drury, Trustee — present

Agenda Items:

1. Approval of Agenda. Chairman Young made a motion to approve agenda. Trustee Drury seconded the motion. Motion passed with 4 votes in favor.
2. Approval of June 18, 2025 minutes. Trustee Drury made a motion to accept June 18, 2025 meeting minutes. Chairman Young seconded the motion. Motion passed with 4 votes in favor.
3. Public Comment (please limit comments to 3 min per person). One (1) township resident was in attendance requesting to install a gate in their fence which would allow access in and out of the park. Park ordinance was created a few years ago (2022) to prohibit any additional entry points or gates into the park.
Another township resident was in attendance with a complaint about the park facilities manager, Chris Welch. They stated he was rude and aggressive towards them when they were in the park recently.
One township resident contacted Chairman Young about an incident regarding the park facilities manager, Chris Welch. He shared about an incident in the park when Chris was aggressive and rude toward him when he turned the water off in the lower pavilion. He also shared that he has been using foul language and mowing with his shirt off.
4. Park Facilities Manager report.
It was stated that the board needs a report separate from the mowing. The park facilities manager is not responsible for the mowing and that is paid separately. Chris will send that report to us so we can post it to the website. The park facilities manager position is 10 hours of work per week for a total payment of \$250 per week.

The ballfields have grass growing in the infields. We need to contact Jerry Bawks who has a pesticide license to see if he would be willing to spray the ballfields for us. We also need to see about getting rid of the weeds in the playground area.

It was mentioned by Chris that he needs to get the path trimmed up, cut down the branch that is hanging near the front ballfields (which has been there for awhile), and put mulch down next to the road. He mentioned he wanted to put mulch down at the stretch next to the road, but he hasn't had time to get it done.

5. Well Contamination Issues

The lower well still needs more testing. Chris started testing the wells too late in the season which called for extra tests in July. One test came back positive for bacteria at the well at the lower pavilion. Since then the well has been tested and the test came back negative. We need three more negative tests in August to pass the inspection by the health department. Right now, the well is up and running because of the negative test that was received recently.

6. Approval of budget/financials

Chairman Young will check on the budget items Misc and Maintenance and Repair. We are reportedly \$58 over budget for the Misc-Children category (\$1000). Chairman Young believes this was a mistake done by Carol. She might have pulled out Chris' wages from the wrong place. Once confirmed we will have to make sure we figure out how to correct this.

Chairman Young made a motion to approve the budget as it now stands. Trustee Witzel seconded the motion. Motion passed with 4 votes in favor and none opposed.

New Business

Trustee Drury- none

Trustee Witzel- none

Treasurer Moore- n/a

Secretary Bawks- Discussion about the resident wanting to put in a gate from public comment is needed. Chairman Young will contact Steve Daunt to see what the township residents are thinking about doing regarding the gate in the fence. We will find out what the residents intend on doing before the park puts any barricade in place for public safety and liability reasons.

Secretary Bawks made a motion to enforce the park ordinance under Section 2. Public Use and Hours, and A. General Public, which states, "The park may only be accessed through the main gate. Entry through private, perimeter properties is not allowed." The park board will not allow exceptions to the ordinance. Trustee Drury seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Chairman Young- aye; Trustee Drury-aye; Trustee Witzel-aye; Secretary Bawks-aye. Motion passed with 4 votes in favor, none opposed.

The green truck/SUV vehicle that has been spotted in the park multiple times seems to be homeless individuals. They have been approached by the authorities in the past due to residents calling them because of a suspicious vehicle in the park. They do not seem to be camping out at the park at this point. If they are in the park overnight or camping out we might need to call our

point of contact or the police to deal with the situation. The park board will keep an eye out for any suspicious and illegal activity.

Chairman Young- Several issues were brought up regarding the behavior of the park facilities manager, Chris, and the incidents from public comment. Chairman Young reminded Chris to have the appropriate professional behavior towards the public. No cursing or aggressive behavior is permitted. Chris was told to let the public know they can contact the park board about any issues/questions they might have.

Another issue is to make sure only Chris is operating machinery. Anyone else working and running machinery is not permitted as they are not a park employee and are not covered for any liability. This was witnessed recently with one of Chris' friends blowing off the path on Sunday, July 13th.

Chairman Young brought up the issue of Chris not wearing a shirt and this being an issue with the park's image and portraying a public professional image. Chris said he could wear a shirt in the future. Chairman Young emphasized making sure it's an appropriate shirt with no profanity and/or inappropriate images.

Public Comment (please limit comments to 3 min per person). None

Next meeting: Monday, August 11th, 2025; 6:30 pm.

Adjournment: Chairman Young made motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Drury seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.