

## Parks and Trails Report

7/26/2021

Members Present – Ager, McCann, Wetherbee

Staff Present – Craker, Edmondson, Scott

Public – Several members of the public were in attendance via zoom.

**Public Comment** – Tom Oehmke referenced the usage that is allowed at the road ends based on the 1902 Northport Beach Plat. Mr. Oehmke presented proposed language for the road end signs that he stated all adjacent road end property owners had read and approved.

**Road End Signs** – Susan Ager prepared two version of a potential sign to be adopted that listed hours of access, some prohibited and allowed uses, as well as a contact number for the Leelanau County Sheriff's Office to report inappropriate behavior. McCann noted that no other public areas have signs this restrictive. The topic of parking came up and all agreed that the "No Parking" signs could be replaced with "Don't Block Driveway" since only the Manson's access their home off 7<sup>th</sup> St. Village Attorney Hammersley counseled the committee that allowing parking in the "street" would not be permitted, it would be the same as if vehicles were to park and obstruct Main St. However public parking could be used in the road right of way to the south. Ager mentioned the idea of creating "park lanes" as a way to allow more access to road ends. Wetherbee asked Hammersley to clear up the notion that Northport/Grand Traverse Bay is and inland lake. He explained the majority of Road End Access deal with inland lakes and streams, which could also be applied to the Great Lakes waters. It was agreed that the Bay is considered Great Lake. The committee decided to table the sign language until Hammersley could take a look at what would be proposed.

**Bike Trails** – Chris McCann, Kallie Craker and Kristian Saile got together at Bramen Hill and walked the area for nearly two hours. Saile was extremely pleased with the terrain on the west side of Bramen (old archery course) and felt a track could be created by simply raking out the trail and pruning some trees along it; in addition building a pump track at the base of the hill at the small triangle of property south of the sledding hill. Phase 3 would occur on the Village property in an attempt to make Nagonaba Trail easier to bike, thus keeping kids off the main road to access Bramen Hill. This could be a way for the Village and Township to collaborate on joint project. Craker is putting a proposal together to present to the Township in the near future.

**Goose Prevention** – Some Marina guest who spend time in Harbor Springs marina noticed our geese problem and offered a solution of Dog Decoys. These decoys move in the wind to create the look of a live dog. McCann suggested having the Harbormaster contact Harbor Springs to verify the effectiveness. Chris Holton said he could also follow up with his contacts in Harbor Springs.

**Trail Map** – The map and QR code are linked to the Village website. We are in the process of finding locations to place QR code for people to can scan. Points of interest in the Village like the marina, village office, golf course, etc. Also placing them at the trail heads and intersections.

**Public Comment** – Mr. Oehmke stated there needed to be a balance between allowed ingress/egress for public use and privacy/quiet for the adjacent property owners. Also the road end signs need to say what's lawful and what is not so there is no confusion by the public. He noted it would take many legal proceedings to change the road end to a park lane.

Will Harper – Road ends allow access to the lake, but how do you define ones access? Through swimming, perhaps sitting on the beach and looking at the lake. He questioned where the road ends and the road end begins? He never believed the bay to be and inland lake. Only the inland lake road end case law could be applied to the Great Lakes.

Fred Steffens – In his experience the dogs decoys have a limited success rate. Geese are smart and quickly realize there is no threat. No parking or Don't Block Driveway signs could/should be posted at each driveway for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> street. He clarified the "road ends at the water's edge." The public has the right to cross into the high water mark.

Pam Steffens – If a no parking sign were to be place on east 4<sup>th</sup> street road end that could mean no parking along street back up to intersection of Rose.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris McCann