



Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes January 13, 2020

The January 13, 2020 meeting Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. in the Commissioners Room at the Iosco County Building by Chairman Tom Ferguson.

ROLL CALL

Present: Fred Strauer, Bob Moore, Bob Leslie, Gary Blaser, John Moehring, Jim McArdle, Frank Brewer, Sue Flora, Jane Hayward and Tom Ferguson

Absent: None

Guests: John McBain, Roger Kilbury, Fred Lewis, Shane Forshee, USFS, and Ken Foster

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved and supported to accept the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved and supported to accept the minutes of December 9, 2019 Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission distributed.

Motion Carried

PUBLIC MATTERS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Lewis asked a question concerning the county recreation grant program and the deadlines for same. He was told that grants are awarded in November of each year with grant submission taking place at the October meeting of the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission. Each grant is for \$5,000.00 and is a matching grant. Once all of the project is completed it will then be inspected and checked to make sure all permits and fees have been made prior to reimbursement of funds.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SNOWMOBILE/ORV TRAILS

Mr. Ferguson reported that there is been very little grooming being done to date due to lack of snow. It had been hoped that last weekend's storm would produce a nice base, but that did not happen. There was also discussion about extending trails into Hale. Mr. Lewis remarked that he is working on right-of-way options into Hale, however, he is meeting the same resistance that the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission met a number of years ago. He will continue to try. Mr. Foster indicated that they are ready to groom as soon as a base of snow is in place.

BIKE/HIKING TRAILS

Winter has set in and work on the new trails will have to wait until spring. Mr. Lewis reviewed several options that the Iosco Exploration Trail (IET) committee is looking at in terms of submitting grant applications for the next phase of the project.

PARK DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Signs for the parks and barns under the oversight of the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission was discussed. Mr. Strauer will check with the townships to see what requirements they have for sign permits prior to the Commission erecting signs on county property.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

LIBERTY ROAD TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The funds for the Liberty Road Trail Improvement Project have been reinstated and approved for \$31,500.00. Mr. Ferguson will send a copy of the scope of work to the Iosco County Road Commission asking them to provide a price for doing the work on the project. Mr. Blazer and Mr. Brewer will follow up with Mr. Bolen at the Iosco County Road Commission before the February 18 meeting to help determine the amount of money that will be required to complete this project..

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Footesite storage barn project is on hold and remain that way until Spring.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Spicer Engineering continues to work on two grants for park improvement at VanEttan Creek Dam and the handicapped park in AuSable Township. A report from Spicer should be available at the February meeting.

USFS DRAFT TRAIL AGREEMENT

A signed copy of the USFS Trail Agreement was presented for signature. It was moved and supported to have Mr. Ferguson sign the agreement on behalf of the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission. A copy of the signed agreement will be returned to the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission once the final signatures are obtained.

NEW BUSINESS

EXPANSION OF IOSCO COUNTY ORV TRAILS

Shane Forshee of the USFS Mio Office was present at the meeting. He asked the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission if there was interest in opening up the Five Channels Dam bridge to ORV traffic. The Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission told him that there was interest, however, there is concern about potential damage to the trail system between the bridge and the Consumers Energy easement and further down the trail toward County Line Road. Also, it was suggested that an access to Liberty Road also be considered in the opening of the bridge to ORV traffic. Mr. Forshee indicated that he would take that information back to the USFS for review and comment. A meeting with Roger MacNeil from the DNR and Mr. Forshee took place ahead of the meeting to discuss the expansion of trails throughout the system in Iosco County. The width of the trails along with other concerns were aired during the discussion. Another meeting of the trails sub-committee will take place prior to the February 18 Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. That meeting will start at 2 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

A question concerning the IET trail in Hale was raised by Mr. Forshee. Mr. Lewis addressed the question concerning access to the restaurants, convenience stores and gas stations. Trail access continues to be an issue in the Hale area.

Any Other Matters

PAYMENT OF BILLS AND PER DIEMS

It was moved and supported to approve the Bills as presented. Roll Call: Ayes 10 Nays: 0 **Motion CARRIED**

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission will take place on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. The meeting will begin at 3 p.m. at the Commissioners Room in the Iosco County Building.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.