

Dundee Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
September 19, 2018

Supervisor Glees called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 PM at the Dundee Township Meeting Room, 611 East Main Street, Suite #201, East Dundee, IL.

Present at roll call: Supervisor Glees and Trustees Ahrens, Harney, Johnson and Schaffer were present at the roll call.

Open Space Coordinator, Katie Meyer led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

Trustee Schaffer made the motion to approve the agenda as presented with a second by Trustee Harney. Upon voice vote – all present voted “aye” – motion carried.

Minutes/Treasurer’s Report:

Trustee Harney moved to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the August 15, 2018 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting as presented. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. Supervisor Glees called the motion and all present voted “aye” - motion carried.

Trustee Schaffer moved to accept the August 31, 2018 Treasurer’s Report and Financial Reports through September 18, 2018 as presented subject to audit – motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Upon voice vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Harney, Johnson and Schaffer voted “aye” – Trustee Ahrens voted “nay” - motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2017-18 AUDIT – WADE ARTHUR, TIGHE, KRESS & ORR

Wade Arthur of Tighe, Kress & Orr was present to review the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Financial Audit. He explained the steps taken to convert the Audit report from a cash basis to the accrual basis required by the State of Illinois. Mr. Arthur also reviewed the management letter and reported that their investigation did not discover any significant findings. Mr. Arthur thanked the Township Staff for their assistance and cooperation with the preparation of the audit. The Board briefly discussed the audit report.

Reports:

Highway Commissioner: Highway Commissioner Sinnett reviewed his written report which highlighted the continuing work to replace culverts. He noted that the list of culverts that require replacement is long and that his department is prioritizing the list to ensure the most urgently needed culverts are replace first. The replacement program may carry over to next year. The annual repaving work has been completed and the department is currently waiting for the invoicing from Lorig to review.

A pre-construction meeting with Bulk Storage the winning bidder for the new Salt Barn is scheduled for next week and the latest engineering contract for the project has been reviewed by our attorney and sent to Heinz Engineering.

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Mr. Sinnett noted that he has received notification that salt prices will be significantly higher this year. Trustee Harney asked Mr. Sinnett about the request from property owners on Country School Road to plow this road. Mr. Sinnett responded that the road does not comply with County standards and therefore his department cannot plow as our insurance carrier would not cover that work.

Supervisor Glees added that she and Mr. Sinnett will be attending the next Village of Sleepy Hollow Board meeting to present the new salt barn project.

Assessor: Assessor Bielak reported that his department is busy preparing materials for the upcoming appeals that have been filed. A total of 177 appeals have been filed of which 55 are for commercial properties. The appeal hearings will begin next week for the residential properties and October 1st for the commercial buildings.

Open Space Coordinator-Katie Meyer: Ms. Meyer presented her report which included the new Teen Nature Rx program at the Library Springs site which seeks to help teens reduce daily stress levels by using nature. Also, she reported on the recent Open Space Photography contest including a list of the winners. Information was presented on the upcoming National Public Lands prairie seed collecting events which are scheduled for Tuesday, September 25th and Saturday, September 29th. The seed collected will be used to re-seed sections of our Open Space lands that are currently being restored. Finally, she reported on the updated plant species list for Snuffy's Prairie that now lists over 127 different native plant species.

Cemetery: Clerk Block presented the Cemetery report which noted that the work on the West Cemetery maintenance building should be completed within the next week. Columbaria sales have reached 10 niches. The staff is continuing to work with the contractors on the maintenance of the Columbaria Garden as there are still a number of dead plants and a large number of weeds in the planting areas.

Clerk: Clerk Block reviewed the upcoming schedule for the approval of the 2018 levy, the FY 2019-20 budget and the nomination of the new Clerk. He also provided the schedule for the upcoming Early Voting at the Township office.

Open Space – Kirby Dowiat, Natural Areas Manager: Mr. Dowiat's monthly report for September highlighted that the staff is continuing work to control various invasive species using mowing and herbiciding. Also, the staff has been completing trail maintenance and the removal of a number of downed trees. The fall season has brought the resumption of the volunteer work days. He concluded by noting the successful germination of the Leatherwood seed that had been installed at Dixie.

Supervisor: Supervisor Glees presented her written report which included a summary of Senate Bill 2923 which requires that the Township Clerk attest the Supervisor's signature on all checks. She is working with counsel to determine how to best comply with the new law. Also reviewed was Senate Bill 2299 which states no elected official can be an employee of the Township and this will require Robert Block to resign as the Township Clerk as of December 31, 2018. The Township must have a replacement in place at that time.

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She reported that the car show at Raceway Woods hosted by MIRPA was well done. Their staff did a great job of monitoring the car trailers to ensure they used the DTOS maintenance road to access the site and that the property was left in good condition.

Supervisor Glees and Katie Meyer started the fall Open Space property inspection program. They have reviewed the sites at Salamander Springs, Jelke Creek, the Jelke Creek Annex and Helm Woods. At Jelke, they noted standing water on 2 of the trails and Supervisor Glees has reached out to Rob Linke of the Kane County Environmental and Water group to help engineer a solution to the water problem. At the Jelke Annex, with the help of the Highway Department, a perimeter walking trail will be established to provide the required access to the site. Finally, at Helm Woods it is noticeable that homeowners are encroaching on Township property with gardens, swings, etc. Supervisor Glees has sent a letter to all the homeowners showing the property line and requesting they remove any items installed/planted on Open Space land.

She reported on the upcoming events in East and West Dundee such as the Scarecrow contest in East Dundee on October 12 -14; the Trunk or Treat event at West Dundee on October 20th and the Dundee Township Rotary Halloween Party for children with special needs on October 27th.

Trustees: Trustee Harney reported that she had attended a workshop at Fermi Labs. The workshop was attended by a nationwide group of individuals that work to restore native grasslands and prairies. The session featured topics such as Adaptive Monitoring which is used to find out what methods are working. She noted that McHenry County and Fermi Labs have extensive volunteer networks and they use apps so that volunteers can find volunteer opportunities that interest them. These opportunities can be in time increments of as little as one hour. Kane County is using cows for prairie restoration and they have shown this technique can be a powerful way to start/improve areas.

Public Comments: Six members of the Public were in attendance. Mr. Mike Angus, CAMBr President addressed the Board with an appeal not to stop biking at the Raceway Woods property. He noted that there is a great movement in the biking community to get away from the road riding into focus on trail riding. Raceway Woods is a good location as the soil is very good and there are ready 5 miles of trails on the Kane County Forest Preserve side. He stated their group has worked to take down invasive trees. He believes CAMBr's presence at the site has led to an increased attendance at the site including more hikers. The Dundee Township portion of the site by Doan's Corner has very good topography and would be an excellent addition to the trail system to allow access to the track. He asked the Board to permit mountain biking.

Chris Kioussis thanked Dundee Township for its' work on the recent "Bee Blitz". He noted that the bee found was identified as the common Bumble Bee. He asked for an update on the status of the installation of a bike rack at the front of the Township Office. Finally, he presented a resident's request that the Township investigate the installation of a light pole at the intersection of Park and Indian in Lake Marian.

Phillip Greaves of Huntley (also a member of CAMBr) stated he would advocate providing full access to Raceway for biking. He became involved with mountain biking 18 months ago and started riding at Raceway with his family. He believes that by providing full access to the site is a service to the public. He stated he feels Raceway used to have a poor reputation however it is now a safer place. He concluded by saying that he believes it is important that the site be open to all and made a family friendly place.

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June Kiebler comments that she has worked with the CAMBr at the site. She said that other people like to view nature without bikers riding by and stressed the need to restore the site to a quieter area.

Rob Shelton of CAMBr commented that he has asthma and that by using the Huntley Road entrance he can more easily access the flat portion of the track to warm up before attempting the more difficult sections of the track.

Supervisor Glees read into the record the following letters from Sophia Shaw and Patrick Shaw:

PATRICK SHAW

880 N. LAKE SHORE /DRIVE I9B CHICAGO IL 60611

September 13, 2018

To: Patricia Glees, Supervisor

Dundee Township

This memo concerns the discussion this upcoming week about the current arrangement with CAMBr and its hike riders. I adamantly object to any effort to expand their trails in any way and, specifically, to expand trails into Dundee 'township Open Space or Shaw property.

Further, I would like to suggest as part of any new understanding with CAMBr, based on their past performance at the Reserve, that CAMBr be required to provide a deposit to cover expenses for damages and associated fees for invasion of private property which may occur as a result of their bikers trespassing on Reserve land. I suggest the amount of \$100,000 in cash be made immediately to the township and before CAMBr is allowed to resume any operations at the Reserve. Without establishment of this fund, any access of CAMBr riders should be entirely forbidden. Trespass violations must be legally enforced.

I would like to remind you that I am very interested in all proceedings at the Reserve that have impact on the Shaw Trust private property. Please keep me personally informed as I am owner and spokesman for the Shaw Trust, so I may contribute to the protection, care and maintenance of the Reserve into the future.

Patrick Shaw

Patrick P. Shaw Trust

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Dear Supervisor Glees:

Thank you for letting me know that the regional director of the Chicago Area Mountain Bikers will be presenting at the Dundee Township September 19 meeting.

While I do believe that many cyclists are also conservationists who are devoted to preserving healthy habitats and sensitive to the nuances of the delicate human-plant-soil-water balance that allows for life on earth to thrive, I am concerned about the cyclists who do not follow respectful trail use. On our land in West Dundee, we encounter cyclists violating both the laws that protect private property and those best-practice standards that should be followed to avoid soil erosion, compaction, and native plant destruction.

Thank you for your efforts to help preserve Dundee Township open space through your efforts to combat trespassing and habitat destruction from both cyclists and pedestrians. On the CAMBr website, their mission statement explicitly includes conservation: "CAMBr seeks to promote trail and freeride bicycling through stewardship, environmental and social responsibility, education, and a spirit of cooperation among all trail users, the conservation community, and governing bodies."

Supervisor Glees and the Township board: I appreciate your efforts to underscore the conservation aspects of the CAMBr mission statement, enforce the law, and protect the land and healthy ecosystems on which all life depends.

Sincerely,

Sophia Shaw

West Dundee

Steven Byers of the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission gave a presentation on the history of the site and the criteria used to place the site on the State Nature Preserve list. He summarized restoration efforts and the management plans at the site. He presented the permitted use of bike trails at the site. He stated that 153 acres of the Shaw property, Dundee Township property and Kane County property were given the designation of a state nature preserve. He has communicated to CAMBr that any modifications to the hiking or biking trails would need to be approved by the Commission.

The public comment period was closed.

Old Business:

Review/Approval of "No Biking Permitted Areas at the Raceway Woods Site: The Board discussed the information presented during the Public Comment period and the general history of the Raceway Woods site. Trustee Johnson stated that the current policy is that no biking is allowed on the Township property except for the asphalt race track (including the former footprint of the track). It was noted that the boundary between the Township property and that of the Kane County Forest Preserve is not currently marked. Supervisor Glees noted that new signage is on order and will be installed shortly. CAMBr asked for use of the areas around Doane's Corner to install a new access trail to the asphalt track. CAMBr referenced an old Raceway map which showed the area in question to be owned by the Park District.

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Trustee Harney noted that once the Illinois Nature Preserve designation was placed on the site, no new trails can be permitted. The land now in the Illinois Nature Preserve designation was purchased with funding from a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources which also restricts the permitted uses. She also stated that when you have multiple user types there is the potential for conflict. Trustee Johnson questioned how one could distinguish between a bike rider who is a member of CAMBr and one who is not.

Trustee Schaffer requested additional data from the Kane County Forest Preserve on the future plans for their portion of the site. The Board also asked for clarification on the site map and more information on the restrictions at the site. The matter was tabled until a future meeting.

Update on Elgin land donation: Supervisor Glees reported that this item is still in process. The attorneys are reviewing the documents and hopefully will have resolution by next month.

New Business:

Appointment/Approval of new Cemetery Board Trustee: Supervisor Glees introduced Mr. Leo Bernardi as her nominee to replace Jim Cudney on the Cemetery Board. After a brief discussion, Trustee Johnson made the motion to appoint Mr. Leo Bernardi to fill the unexpired term of Jim Cudney on the Cemetery Board of Trustees. Trustee Harney seconded the motion and upon voice vote, all present voted “aye” – motion carried.

Audit/Approve Bills and Payrolls:

Audit Bills – Pending Town Fund Bills \$45,531.22; Pre-Paid Town Bills \$1,233.51; Payrolls \$34,134.11 & \$32,340.32; Prior Month’s General Assistance Costs \$14,776.73; Pending General Assistance Bills \$824.71; General Assistance Payrolls - \$654.14 & \$584.77; Pending Cemetery Fund Bills \$10,026.89; Pre-Paid Cemetery Bills \$548.60; Payrolls \$9,786.88 & \$9,270.24; Pending Road & Bridge Fund Bills \$23,986.74; Pre-Paid Road & Bridge Bills \$1,115.93; Payrolls \$14,302.08 & \$14,501.23; Road IMRF/FICA Payrolls of \$2,212.23 & \$2,247.09.

Trustee Johnson made the motion to approve the bills as audited with a second by Trustee Ahrens. Upon roll call vote, Supervisor Glees and Trustees Ahrens, Johnson, Schaffer and Harney voted “aye” – Motion Carried.

Budget Transfers: No Budget Transfers were required.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was called at this meeting.

Trustee Harney made the motion to adjourn with a second by Trustee Ahrens. Upon voice vote, all present voted “aye” – motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.



Robert Block
Dundee Township Clerk