

# Village of Bellaire

## PARKS COMMITTEE

**Trish Drollinger, Chairman**

**Helen Schuckel**

**Brent Nelson**

### MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2013

1:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Drollinger called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

#### Attendance

**Present:** Chairman Drollinger and Brent Nelson

**Absent:** Helen Schuckel

**Staff Present:** Ken Stead, DPW Supervisor & Janet Koch, Clerk

**Also Present:** Terry Smith, Forest Home Township Supervisor, Dean Crandall, Forest Home Township Trustee, and Brad Gerlach, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

2. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the addition to New Business of c) Dog Park, and moving the discussion item of Glacial Hills Pathway ahead of Old Business.

**Motion by Nelson, seconded by Drollinger, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of July 20, 2012 were approved.

**Motion by Nelson, seconded by Dewey, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None presented.

5. **Discussion Item – Glacial Hills Pathway:** Terry Smith, with assistance from Dean Crandall and Brad Gerlach, presented the progress of the trail construction at Glacial Hills Pathway. Smith said the next step in the overall project is to get the village's permission to construct a portion of trail across the village property on Orchard Hill Road.

Smith provided maps to the committee and noted that linking the trail system to the village road system could be achieved by crossing only three properties; a privately-owned parcel, a parcel owned by Bellaire Public Schools, and a parcel owned by the village at the west end of Second Street where a village well is located. Smith asked the committee if it would be possible to establish a trail access point on the village's property, thereby linking the Glacial Hills Pathway to the village. Smith also said that might be a good location for a small mountain bike park with jumps and other attractions. Trustee Drollinger expressed some reservations about such a park, citing concerns about liability. Koch said the village attorney could provide guidance, adding that municipalities are generally protected from lawsuits except in cases of negligence.

The committee agreed that linking Glacial Hills to the village would be beneficial. Koch said one of the goals of the Recreation Plan recently approved by the village council was to work toward that link. Smith said they hoped to do the trail construction that would complete the link in 2014.

6. **Old Business:** None presented.

7. **New Business**

- a) **Proposed change in Craven Park camping operations:** The committee discussed running the campground as self-paying instead of hiring a caretaker. Also discussed was restricting the ability to make campground reservations to a few sites, the purchase of signage, adding posts, hiring someone to clean the bathroom on weekends, the purchase of new fire rings, new signs for the bridge, and the construction of metal pipes for payment collection by the DPW.

**Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Nelson, to recommend to village council that the Craven Park Campground be non-manned, that self-pay posts be installed, that an instructional sign be installed, that the campsite lines be marked better, and that campsites 13-18 be marked as sites that can be reserved. Motion carried by voice vote.**

- b) **FY 2013-2014 budget:** The committee discussed a list of items presented to the Planning Commission by Jim Emery at a meeting regarding the Recreation Plan. The listing described a number of items requested by the school baseball and softball coaches. Stead said many of the maintenance items on Mr. Emery's list have been completed.

One of the items mentioned was a drag. Drollinger said she has asked Steve Conkle, the baseball coach, exactly what kind of drag was needed, so a request to Rotary could be made. Nelson said he'd contact Katie Verellen regarding requests from the softball team. Drollinger said she'd contact Steve Conkle regarding requests from the baseball team.

The committee asked staff to find estimates for a number of items. Further discussion of the budget was tabled until the next Parks Committee meeting.

- c) **Dog Park:** After a short discussion, the committee decided to table the idea of a dog park until more research has been done.

8. **Communications/Informational:** Koch said in the committee packets was an article from a recent issue of The Review, the Michigan Municipal League magazine, about how trail systems can help spur economic development.

9. **Member/Public Comment:** None presented.

10. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Compiled by Janet Koch, Clerk  
Minutes Subject to Approval

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_