

Supervisor Forbes called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.  
The pledge was led by Supervisor Forbes.  
A prayer was led by Michael Clinesmith

Roll Call:

Present: Michael Clinesmith, Bob Forbes, Sam Tester, Bill Gray

Excused Absence: John Stack

Public hearing opened on the 2015-2019 Parks and Recreation Plan at 6:34pm.  
Michael Clinesmith discussed the basic rules for the public hearing. The public will have an opportunity to make comments; name and address is requested. Vicky Sherry will begin by going over the plan, then the public will have the opportunity to make comments, then the hearing will be closed, for the Board to have discussion. Approval of the plan is planned for the regular Board meeting.

Vicky Sherry started by personally offering the highest commendation to those involved—the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Planning Commission who went above and beyond. The Township is lucky to have such dedicated people. This is the plan that was developed. It follows all of the Michigan Department of Recreation mandates. So Vassar Township is in line for future grants. The EDC office was told that last year every grant that was applied for \$50,000 and under was accepted. In the future because of the capital improvement portion—those are things that are kind of like the wish list of what you would like to put in the park, if the funds are available and if it is affordable. But sometimes you can put something in the plan, and get a grant to do it, but if it will cost you so much to maintain, why do it? So that wouldn't happen. Some of the things that are proposed are to create a nature trail, playground equipment in the park, outdoor lighting, public restroom, chemical or waterwise, a pavilion, park benches, signage, a paved parking lot or driveway—although after looking at that picture—it looks pretty good the way it is. And install broadband internet or a cell tower. Because a lot of people in the park, like to have their internet now. Those are some of the things. A lot of it deals with the community profile, which would be the wants and needs. I don't know how of many of you filled out the survey in December, a year or so ago; that is actually in here, some of the things were requested, we made sure to get them in here. And that is about it. Are there any questions from anybody?

Mike Slocum: How much will it cost to maintain the outdoor lighting on an annual basis?

Sherry: That I don't know, it depends on what you put in. Are we talking just one light and will it be an LED light or normal light...

Slocum: Well how do they determine the cost to be \$12,000 if you don't know what the light going to be?

Sherry: Well you just put in, like I said, this is a wish list. It is like Santa's Christmas list. In doing it it is good to plan high and then if you can get a grant for that and then there was money available to maintain it, then absolutely, why not have it if that's what the public wants?

Slocum: So the cost to Vassar Township to maintain the lights on an annual basis is included in this proposal?

Sherry: That would absolutely have to be that portion if you wanted to do it, absolutely. That has to be there. Not only for the State's sake, but also for the Township. You don't want to get anything in there that you cannot possibly maintain.

Slocum: How is the trash pickup going to be accomplished? Who's going to pick that up?

Sherry: Well, I would suggest getting trash cans and whatever municipal company you contract with, I would contact them.

Bill Gray: You said this is a wish list...

Sherry: Yes...

Gray: This doesn't mean we have to approve any of this. It's not approved if we approve this master plan, that does not mean these things are approved.

Sherry: Correct. It just means that if the funds are available and if the community wants that...

Gray: I just wanted to double check that...

Sherry: Absolutely.

Dan Zuzula: You said that you put comments in there from the survey—did you put any of the bad comments from the survey?

Sherry: Yes it is covered in there.

Zuzula: What was the percentage rate in the survey of the people that wanted it and the people that didn't want it?

Sherry: That part wasn't... You mean the percentage that wanted the park itself? This survey was after the park was created.

Zuzula: Then where did you send the survey off to?

Sherry: I believe it was sent out to all the residents.

A few comments: I never got one.

Sherry: Oh, it was when, December...

Zuzula: Did you send it to the people you knew who wanted it?

Sherry: No, no, it was sent to everybody.

Slocum: It went out to 3% of the Township population responded, and only 1% were in favor. The responses were 30 against, and 20 in favor, which represents 2% of the Township population was opposed to it, and only 1% of the Township was in favor of it.

Zuzula: And so the Township is donating money to a something that the majority didn't want. I don't understand that...

Michael Clinesmith: Just to be clear, I want to get the public comment, if you want to get it recorded; we're getting a lot of crosstalk... We can open it up to the floor to the public now, then you can make your comments, then I can get your comments written down here, as we get a lot of crosstalk, I won't get them all. So say your name and address, then the chair will call on you, and we can go through and do that. To Sherry: Are you done?

Sherry: Yep. Not a problem.

Bob Forbes: Alright, so we'll open it up to public comment.

Mike Slocum, 4303 O'Brien: I note that you received 58 responses to the survey. That means about 3% of the Township population responded. There is 1541 households. Bob you said that the ratio of responses was 30 were opposed and 20 were in favor. That means 1% of the Township population is in favor of this proposed expenditure of \$63,000, and the notion that you're going to approve it, just to receive grants, that's not what it says, because the language says, "The following capital improvement schedule draws an outline and a guideline as to the desires of the community." This is not saying, apparently based on the statistical responses, how did you determine that is a guideline for the desires of the community when only 1% of the Township population says they are in favor of it...and this does not reflect the true cost of the plan when you say that you're going to have to contract with the Republic trash dumpsters, and I recall what happened when you placed trash dumpsters in front of the building, they were full the day after they were emptied, and if you're going to put trash dumpsters over there they will be full the day after they are in. That's not reflected in here, and the operational cost of lighting, how much is that going to be? And I would like to strongly suggest the notion that if you are going to put this out there with the hope that you are going to continue to get grant money, it needs to say that.

Bob Forbes: I have said that from the beginning that if this park gets built it will have to be done by grants.

Slocum: Well, it doesn't say that in the plan.

Forbes: I didn't write it.

Slocum: It says the following capital improvement schedule provides an outline to guide as to the desires of the community, and that's not an accurate statement. Thank you.

Fred Welsh, 7040 Sheridan Rd: We worked in a group of folks around the Parks and Rec group that anybody can be on just come in here and work on it. There is about six or seven folks working on that now and also on the Planning Commission. I think we need to hear some of the things Mrs. Sherry is saying very well. This is a plan, and a plan is a working document. It's a guideline, and a way to focus on what you are heading toward in the future. This is not, basically a budget, this is not an approval, this is not necessarily even the numbers that people are working on this type of thing have. We have to have a guideline on what we might do. We also need to know one very important thing about this document. This document has to exist in a certain format because it deals with grants, and the special language they speak. It's not a plan I would make if I were making a plan, but we hired people who were experts at this, so that we can qualify for the grants. Also, I hear of...to get feedback from the community a lot more about the park relative to what this thing is compared to the whole Township. This is about a plan for the Township in the next decades. When this Township will see huge changes, we have surprises that came out of that document. Did you believe, like I believed that this is mostly a senior Township? It isn't. We have almost equal numbers of people in every category. How much time have you spent thinking about what the 30 year olds want? How much time have you spent thinking about what a 5 year old wants, there's as many of those folks as there are of me. It surprised me. So when you think about this, remember this is kind of a guideline that we use as we go forward with our plan. Bob and the people that replace Bob will never allow us to spend money foolishly on a thing like this and we will won't recommend it either. So as you think about this plan, remember, it's good to have people thinking about where this place could go in the future.

Sherry: Can I speak?

Forbes: Go ahead.

Sherry: Also, within the plan is, after the capital improvement is the part that is called the action plan rationale, and that's where you have to explain each item on the, we'll call it the wish list because that is what it is. And the first sentence of that portion does state, "should the funds become available, the future improvements to Vassar Park include." It's covered in both ways. The public has to want it, and the Township has to be able to afford it, and has to be willing to maintain it. There is no way you would ever want to put an improvement in a park that you couldn't afford to maintain.

Dan Zuzula, 4975 West Saginaw: You said that the funds would have to come in..

Sherry: Be available, yes...

Zuzula: That means that more of my tax money would have to be along with the grant

Sherry: No.

Zuzula: Be just period, grant...

Sherry: Yes. There is some grants there is matching funds, that's what they call it. But that's usually maybe 10%, up to, I think 20% on some of the grants. But it would also have to be something that the community was willing to have. It could not go forward unless the community was willing to have it.

Zuzula: So, did we get a grant for them to pay for them to come up with this, or did that come out of our tax money?

Forbes: Don't know. To Clinesmith: How did we do that?

M. Clinesmith: The amount of money for the preparation for the plan that did come out of the general Township budget.

Zuzula: Did that come out of the Township fund?

M. Clinesmith: Yes.

Zuzula, or did that come out of the Park and Recs fund, and if it didn't come out of the Parks and Rec fund, why did it come out of the Township fund?

M. Clinesmith: It's just regular taxpayer money.

Slocum: How much did that cost?

Zuzula: So you're taking more money for the Parks & Rec to pay for these people, but instead of taking it out of the Park and Recs fund, that's misappropriation of funds.

M. Clinesmith: It's just the regular money that the Township has set aside in the budget. Money was set aside to do the Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Plan.

Slocum: How much was spent so far, on the plan portion?

M. Clinesmith: For the parks plan, \$4,000 was spent on it, to develop that plan.

Bill Gray, Township Trustee: If you move forward with this park, to get a grant, I believe this Master Plan needs has be adopted before you are eligible for a grant.

Sherry: Right

Gray: That's how come we voted to go ahead with the Master Plan, the Park and Recreation Master Plan, am I right?

Sherry: That is correct.

Gray: So that's how come it was voted on to go ahead with the plan. And I want to say again that just because it is written here to have whatever in 2017, that doesn't mean it's going to be done. Do you understand that?

Slocum: It's not what it says in the following capital improvement schedule, "It provides and outline and a guide for the desires of the community."

Gray: She said it is a wish list, I believe, to get this wish list started, you have the Parks and Recreation Committee has to approve it, then you go to the Planning Commission, and they approve it, and then they send it to this Board, correct? So, it has to go through some channels.

Sherry: Even to apply for the grant, you go through, the Park and Rec Committee, the Planning Commission, and your Board. There is no way you can even apply for the grant without your approval.

Steven Erickson, Tuscola County EDC: And a DNR grant, that has to be a public hearing too...

Sherry: Yes.

Erickson: for these funds. So it isn't as if the Board can do it without knowledge of the public. So you would informed that you were applying for this grant, and you'd be asked for public input, before it would be sent in.

Forbes: What would be the procedure of the accomplishing this, put for a vote?

Sherry: You would have the public hearing, like we are having today, and after you went through each committee and/or board, then it would be presented to the Board of Trustees. You would have your public hearing, and then you would decide whether the grant could be written or not.

Erickson: Submitted...

Sherry: Yes.

Forbes: Okay. Thank you.

Donald Clinesmith, 6630 Washburn Rd. Vassar: The park was okayed by the Township Board, and that's basically what you see on the screen up there is what we have at this time. We started this park and then opportunity came up to talk to the DNR, and one of our members talked to the DNR, and the DNR okayed, Russ over here, I'm glad it was Russ, he's got the personality to talk to people, and they put in the drive and a parking lot on the north end of the Cass River Bridge, which will allow people that hunt, and people that fish now, to have access to the bridge down, just below the bridge now they're going to be able to take their kayaks and canoes in there, and in the future we know what's happening at the Cass River, the DNR, the State of Michigan, somebody is spending money. Several conservation groups are working now in Frankenmuth, they're building a new type of fish ladder, it's like rubble stone, crushed stone, instead of the old type ones they had ladders on and they...

Janice Zawol : Here.

Zawol showed a newspaper article of the ladders.

D. Clinesmith: Yes. That's a nice picture of it...

Janice Zawol: Yes.

D. Clinesmith: And they hoped that that will bring up the game fish back up to the upper Cass River now, and I hope it does too, because we have not much in this area going for us, in the future, unless you consider farming. I'm sorry Bill, farming is a wonderful thing, but there's not too much for recreation, you have to go up to the upper thumb almost all the way to the lake shore to get anything like that, and the fact that the park is already in existence, and it's...thanks mostly to one hard working person that made the trails and stuff like that. It's going to be...I went over a week ago, took a walk through it, and it was very nice, very well laid out because it's dry. There might be low spots, there might be high spots, but it's in most cases it's dry. Also that land isn't just pictured in the future as a park, it may become home for a new Township hall, and I did want people to understand that, more than 20 years ago, they started laying money away for two things in the Township, and the two things were parks and recreation, and a new Township hall. Now I'm not in a rush to see the Township spend that money, but they've taken good care of it. It doesn't draw much interest with the interest rate but it sits there, and it's safe, and maybe before my lifetime is over will see a combination of the parks and maybe even a new Township hall. Who knows, it could happen? That money's set aside already. We're not using it to work on the park system now.

Welsh: You led into a point. The point is that we can have a meeting like this. We had our general meeting for the Township and I think we had 18 people present. We have 4,000 people in the Township. If you listen to what's happening with the tax situation in the State of Michigan, you will find a great deal of money is being taken out of areas and moved to other areas. I doubt any one of us in this room knows much about it. When you're talking about possibly having a Township hall, having that area over there become a bigger center of the community, rather than just a park, or a bigger center of more people interested in what the State of Michigan is doing, that could be very important. Right in this Township we have people who were blind-sighted by the drain situation when it happened. People who do not come to these meetings are aware of that sort of thing, and if people come to these meetings we need to have more of a community center for those types of things to happen. Part of the reason for that piece of property right over there that isn't like any other piece we have is that it is in the center of the Township and we can talk about things we need to know about like this. We had a survey, we sent out a survey, we got 50 responses and people say the survey happens to go x or y. Well, I'm not that good at statistics but let me make you a bet. That if you get 50 responses out of a possible 1,000, you don't have a significant survey. It's ten difference. So, that doesn't tell me too much, particularly since the ones that really came were motivated. They had a reason to come. But the point is, think more than about just that. That area right across the road there is where we can more interest in what is going on locally. And locally we are blind-sighted again and again. Wayne County just got, went bankrupt. We are going to help pay for it, wouldn't it be nice to know? The County Commissioners are talking about getting rid of planning, for the County. Wouldn't it be nice to know? There are businesses coming in and things going on all over. These plans are important, and not because of whether we put in a trash can or not, they're about whether anybody is looking. So with that I see that's the importance of the document and that's the importance of the process.

Russ Fall, 7144 Down Creek Drive: I wanted to address some of the things that have been commented on here. Now, this gentleman here, I don't know if he's read the Parks and Rec Master Plan or not. Sir, have you read the plan? Okay, on page 17, on the second paragraph, the word "potential capital improvements for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan have been established not only to provide a framework for decision makers but also to enable the Township of Vassar to apply for grant funding for these proposed projects. The CIP schedule is not a fixed element and is neither all inclusive nor exclusive." Those words, "potential", "fixed" and "exclusive" or "all inclusive" means that these are just plans. This is a framework, \$4,000 that went into this, is to take and have a possible ability for grants. I think it is money well spent, for

the future. But this plan is a good plan for working from for the next 5 years, to take and move the Township forward. Whether we address everything that's in there

Slocum: Does this represent the desires of the community?

Fall: Well, when you go back to the survey, what, right now we're having a meeting, and what percentage of the Township is at this meeting, right now? Let's take a percentage of the Township, that would be the basis for the survey also. You have very few people that actually show up and get involved. So the percentage here is, well, the same percentage is what you have for the survey. So, I don't think you can go by one or the other, but there are many citizens in the community that are interested in having these things.

Zuzula: You keep talking about the survey, the survey said "no." You know, it said "no", and then you went ahead with it anyways. Who made the decision to go ahead with it and why did you give money to something that the majority of the people, were you pressured? Because people don't come to the meetings because of the bureaucracy that goes on here that is being given to the fox and bread, that's why I'm here. I didn't know nothing about this, and that survey, if I would have got that survey, I definitely would have said, "No way."

Onna Clinesmith, 6630 Washburn Rd.: Thank you for this opportunity. If you look at what goes on nationally, people like fun, and what they like, when they have an area they are moving into, they look at the schools, they look at the security, and they look at the recreation. They look at the recreation. It doesn't matter how many answer the survey, people want fun, and a park is fun, and that's what we're looking for, we're going to make some fun in Vassar Township. The people are going to want to be here; the people that are here, maybe they can't go to the movies, but they can go to a park. Maybe they can't go off on a vacation, but they can go to their park. That's what the park is for, for the people who are here, for some fun. It's not just about the money, if it was about money, people wouldn't go on vacation. It's not just about the money. We have to do this for other people, this is about some fun in the Township. Thank you.

Zuzula: So, people do come to your Township, and to your City, for the recreation, and for the police and for how nice it is, but the majority of the people will go into Vassar City where there are a variety of parks, where there are a variety of stores, ice cream stores where they can pay a quarter for a small ice cream. You know, they can fish off the new bridge that's being put in there, so why would we put in a new park when there is five parks, that's not even three miles away from here, and being used, and then we got another park down here that we need the boat ramp; now that's a good one there and everything because that is something that everybody can use, so why would we have a park so far away from a boat ramp, when people want to go fishing or something. I wonder if there's going to be picnic tables or toilets down there, that the State won't pay for?

Sam Tester: I'd like to ask the young lady a question. I'm against this park. But, I want a park. Now it says we have 35 square miles of land. Point one mile is water. We've got ponds out here on Washburn Road. Okay, so if we accept this grant, but we decided to turn this one down and can that grant still go to a park out here?

Sherry: We'd have to create a park out there. You would literally have to create that as a park. Right now it's just Township owned land.

Tester: Okay

Sherry: And I think we are losing a little focus here. This meeting isn't about whether to have a park or not; it's about whether to approve or not the Master Plan for the park you do have and that was voted into existence. So perhaps we could stay a little more focused on that.

Forbes: I'd like to say something. We've had a gravel pit over here quite a few years, and we've put the money we've made off of that, it's pretty close to half a million dollars. That money was set aside years ago, way before my time over here, that some day that money would be used build a park, either there, or build a hall. We haven't used that money, and I not allocated any of that money to this project over here. I've not been a big supporter of this, and Russ will tell you that to begin with. But, we do have money for a park that's set aside just for that, and we're also talked about putting a tower in this park over here, which could bring money from different cell phone companies and bring money to the Township. Now since we've put gravel in over there, I've had Kip Kross come out and he brush-hogged all the property over here at the old gravel pit; he's putting down topsoil, some kind of grass that's going to be beautiful caisson that's has palm there that could be very valuable for the park for the fish to fish. So on the next thing I want to ask, how many people here are, go to parks and walk for recreation, could you raise your hand? Six people out of this audience,

M. Clinesmith: I've gone on walks for recreation.

Forbes: Okay, I'll get you, Anything else?

D. Clinesmith: I don't want to say anything more at this time. I think it's very worth...We're actually here to meet just like we said, it's the recreation plan, it's not the park. People are focused on the park, and the park is a thing that exists already, and what we want to talk about is the paperwork that goes with having a Parks and Recreation plan. The City of Vassar, yes, they do have five parks. They may have six or seven; they're not even sure how many they have over there. But, it's only been there for less than 20 years. And there was one man, who was responsible for the City in Vassar getting all those parks. One person. I know what the last name was, Kishnick, Brian Kishnick. He used to be City manager, he was also before that, they had a Parks and Recreation manager, and this man got all these grants from the State of Michigan, and he was the one that got the City behind him to write and do all this work for those parks, and that's why they have them there. And the City formed a plan with Vassar Township and the plan with Tuscola Township, and the only thing that Tuscola Township and Vassar Township got out of the whole planning area for the time that they were involved in it, was the City of Vassar's parks, because neither one of the other two townships got a park, they didn't get riverfront access, they didn't get anything. And so that's why Tuscola Township broke off now, they formed their own Parks and Recreation. They have their own Parks and Recreation Plan, and that's why we're doing it, because we get nothing out of it from the City except for the use of those, and they're there, yeah, people can drive there, and they can use them. That's wonderful, that they're there, but they're not in your own Township; they don't belong to you. The people in the City don't care whether you use them or not, but they probably would just assume say, this is our stuff, we paid for it, we like to use it. That's the way I'd probably feel.

Barb Walker, 6132 Sheridan: I just want to say for some children, I want a swing set. That's all I'm here to say. I want, I don't care if it is all the playground stuff—swing set. Make it big enough for me to swing on, because when I go into, like a park or something, they're built for 8 year olds. You know, make it a commercial swing set where I can go there and I can swing and I will be there every day. Every day.

Michael Clinesmith, 6630 Washburn Rd.: I want to kind of just mention a few other things because there have been some things that have been commented about. One is the question about if we should do it or not, if the community in support of it or not. So this last survey that we did had, I think, 58 responses. The Township, and this is one of the things that we've looked at in the past, too, is that the Township has send out surveys in the past. One survey was sent out, I think was it 2006, 2007. At that time, remember, there was another issue going on there, people were complaining about the frontage, and people did not like their...the big question about the frontage of the property. A lot of people were upset about that frontage issue. So they sent out a survey, with a lot of different questions, one of them was recreation. And they got about 280 responses back. At that time, in that survey, when they were asked about the possible question

about the frontage, they asked about recreation. At that time, they asked, "Do you feel that more recreational development would be desirable?" At that time, 181 said "yes", 50 said "no", and 36 said "don't know." And then they asked, "Should the facilities be public or private?" 165 said public, 49 said private. So at that time, there was a significant amount of people that believed that recreation is something the Township should be looking at. Now where have here, again it's been mentioned, we have a small segment of the population we have people that have maybe, most of all, and I thank you for your comments, and I do my best to write down everything, but it is important to have the discussion. Remember, that I'm not everyone in the Township, and Bob's not everyone, and we are here to represent the needs of everyone of the Township. There's some people that want recreation in the Township, and some people that don't. But we are supposed to serve the needs of everyone. Just because one person doesn't want recreation in the Township, is that something the Township should say one person or a small group of people... We have to look at the concerns of everyone. We need to be respectful of the money. We have to distribute the money appropriately, and part of what we are doing with this plan is, we're trying to come up with a very thoughtful way of going about... how to be looking at it. There is a certain segment of the population that believes that this Township needs to be more community minded. We need to have a center for recreation. And we want to respect everyone, treat everyone with respect, and we need to serve the needs of everyone. So there is a group of people that do believe in recreation, and that's why we take all these surveys in account, but they're not the whole thing, because with the last one we got, we got 58 responses, and this one we got 280 or so. And so we know that there's people out there that are interested in what is going on, and we plan to serve the needs of everyone. I believe that as a Township we should be looking at recreation, not as the sole thing; not all the money going to recreation; a responsible way of doing it. The Township has \$360,000 dollars set aside for recreation, and we want to use that responsibly. So, and part of this is why we're trying to do the plan. We're doing it in a responsible way. If there's things we can do, we'll look for grants. We have a Recreation Committee, we'd welcome input from everyone, you know, if you'd come to the Recreation Committee, you can bring up things, things that would be nice. But that's what we're looking in here with this plan we're trying to be very thoughtful. There was a lot of time and energy put into this plan, and there have been people at this Township that have spent a lot of time, of their own time, not getting paid for it to work on improving recreation in the Township, and people in this Township are going to benefit. The whole Township benefits because people are looking at recreation, so we want to be responsible, the Township has the \$600,000, \$700,000 budget each year, we want to be responsible with the money. And that's why we're doing this, and we want to get input from everyone. There is people that would like a swing set, you know, you can go on the swings. There's people that want government body to vote for police protection, there is people that want taxpayer money to go for roads; our job is to balance that. We set aside our budget \$200,000 for roads, and now we're looking at maybe tens of thousands of dollars for recreation this year. Is that, I think that's a thoughtful procedure that we're going through. So we want to respect and use everyone's money wisely, and that's why we're glad you're here.

Fall: I just want to take and say that Vicky is right, that the focus of this hearing tonight is the Parks and Rec Master Plan for the next 5 years. Is it a good one, or is it something that the people don't want. My own personal opinion is a lot of work went into this right here, and it is a good workable plan. It does not mean that money has to be spent if the people of the Township don't want any more than a rustic park there, then it can stay the way it is, but like you've heard from one person, and there have been many people that have stopped and talked to me while I've worked there, that they are in favor of it. They like what they're seeing. I've had positive comments; I've had a guy stop; that he was very dead set against it. I talked to him at length, and after we were done talking, he said "Well, I see where you're coming from", and he thinks it might be a good thing. But he doesn't want to take and tell anybody that he's changed his mind.

Forbes: Well, I'll have to say this. Russ has done a lot of work over there, cause I haven't been very willing to give him much money, so he's done a lot of work himself over there, and I thank you to be honest.

Fall: Thank you.

The public hearing was closed at 7:15 pm.

**Current Business:**

Board Discussion of 2015-2019 Parks and Recreation Plan

Motion by Forbes, seconded by Tester to delay approving the recreation plan until the next regularly scheduled meeting in September.

Vote 4-0, MOTION CARRIED.

**Public Comment:**

Janice Zawol, 4280 Oak Road, mentioned that she was Vice Chair on the Planning Commission and Recreation Committee. "The Park is a means to an end; a way to get money to the Township. The Township needs a sense of community. Everybody wants the Park. There is so much positive feedback it is unbelievable. There is a trend in the State moving in favor of recreation. This is the future for Michigan. Why are people going to other locations? They should be coming to us. This is our community, our pride. I am proud to be in the Township. It is what we need."

Fred Welsh mentioned that the purpose of the property and plan is not just a park. "The Township does not regard itself as a community. We have 4,000 people in the now growing Township; we are a large group of people." He mentioned the how the Township was when the Hall was built. "We have 2900 voters in the Township and they would not all fit in this building. We need a facility for public things, with multiple uses." He remembered seeing Onna and Mike sitting in chairs in the sun with political activities, and suggested there should be better facilities for that. "We need to have a community center; grant money can get us working in that direction. The Parks & Recreation Committee has already walked the trail. Bob mentioned the Washburn Road property—we can do that. We need to think broadly."

Motion by Gray, supported by Clinesmith to adjourn.

Vote 4-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm

Minutes prepared by Clerk Clinesmith.

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Vassar Township Clerk

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Vassar Township Supervisor