

**HOMESTEAD TOWNSHIP  
APPROVED 4/3/17  
SPECIAL MEETING  
PARK & REC MASTER PLAN  
TRUST FUND GRANT  
FEBRUARY 27, 2017**

The SPECIAL meeting of the Homestead Township Board was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Supervisor Shannon Purchase.

The entire audience participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present by roll call: Mary Geetings, Shelley Rosa, Mike Mead, Shannon Purchase and Beverly Holbrook.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN:**

Shelley Rosa said that Beckett&Raeder did a wonderful job on the plan. The board looked through the finished product. Shannon asked the public if they had any comments or questions on the plan. One question was asked if the plan was for the 52 acre property only and it was noted that this plan is for any project done in Homestead Township. Claire, from Beckett&Raeder did an overview of the master plan. Ingemar Johansson, President of HARP, said this plan was well done and it will open many paths for additional area improvements and the ability to get funding. Bob Rosa asked if we need the County Park and Rec blessing to come out from under their plan. Claire said this plan took in consideration the Honor Village and the County plans. Once this is adopted we send a copy to the County. Bob Rosa said this is a good idea because the County Park & Rec has their emphasis and goal to get the Lighthouse up and going and they are working on that. Our plan gives us the control. The board will create a committee in the future to work on future plans and grants. Shelley said that with AES working in the county now, they will be a resource for grant funding.

Shannon Purchase read Resolution No. 2017-27-02A Homestead Township 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and made the motion to adopt, supported by Shelley Rosa. Roll call: Shelley Rosa – Yes, Mike Mead – Yes, Mary Geetings – Yes, Shannon Purchase – Yes, Holbrook – Yes. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

## **PUBLIC HEARING FOR MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT FOR 52 ACRE PURCHASE:**

Ingemar Johansson gave the history of HARP and how this purchase of land started. This was one of the main requests from a community meeting that was held in 2011 for the public to get to the river for fishing and canoeing. In the area of Honor there are no public sites easily available for the public to use or for a barrier free access.

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Chris Sullivan from the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy spoke about their part in the purchase of this property, how the grant is made and the timeframe.

Ingemar spoke about how HARP will fund their part of the purchase. HARP will raise \$120,000 by December 2017 by crowd funding and other fund raisers this year. They already have over \$17,000 and feel confident that this money will be raised. There are great partnerships to make this project come together. Maintenance on the park will be done through the Benzie Conservation District so no taxpayer dollars will be spent on this park.

It was asked how it works if HARP has their money but we were waiting for the State to get their money sent for the purchase, would the Land Conservancy step in and purchase the property and then receive their money when the State pays the grant? Chris Sullivan said yes they would handle it that way.

This purchase is about economic development for our area. People will stop here and hopefully shop and eat in town.

There was some talk about taking this property off the tax roll but when you improve a property it raises the value of surrounding property.

Property tax would be offset by the simulation of business.

Discussion regarding the extra traffic on US-31 and how this will be handled. There will be planned entrance and will be discussed at a later date. We need to have the traffic stop and enjoy our area instead of driving through.

Shannon Purchase read Resolution No., 2017-27-02 Submission of Application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for Purchase of 52-Acre Property on Platte River and made the motion to adopt, supported by Shelley Rosa.

Discussion on the amount of funds that HARP has to raise. Depending on the final appraisal the grant may be less plus there are extra costs above the price of the purchase that HARP will cover.

Roll call: Mary Geetings – Yes, Shelley Rosa – Yes, Mike Mead – Yes, Shannon Purchase – Yes, Beverly Holbrook – Yes. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Beverly J. Holbrook  
Recording Secretary/Township Trustee