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Citizen Representatives



CLINTON COUNTY PARKS AND GREEN SPACE COMMISSION

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COORDINATOR'S REPORT

October 2013

ACTIVITIES:

Searles Construction Company Property Acquisition

Property closing has been changed from October 15 to November 5. The change is necessary to provide DNR Grants Management with a 60 day period to review closing documents and ready financials.

Leon Searles has hired Spicer Group to manage paperwork related to relocating his business equipment from the property to an adjoining property. Relocation cost reporting must follow Trust Fund procedures which require accurate and documented tracking of expenses. Spicer Group has the necessary experience in such matters.

Park Maintenance Garage

The commission has leased its maintenance garage from Leon Searles for \$1 per year. On November 5, following acquisition of the property where the garage is located, the facility becomes property of Clinton County. All other structures in the former farmstead – home and three outlying barns – are scheduled to be torn down within 90 days of property closing. At least, that was the plan until recently.

I propose to save one of the barns for storage of maintenance



Scheduled for demolition, this building is worth saving for park maintenance and material storage use. The barn is located adjacent to the current Motz County Park maintenance garage.

equipment and materials. The maintenance garage has provided good service to the Commission over the past five years; however, storage needs have outgrown space found in the garage. Materials are currently stored in one of the barns that will definitely be torn down. After considering what to do with materials that can't be accommodated in the garage, I decided to give a closer inspection to the other two barns scheduled for demolition. It was discovered that the barn immediately behind the house, has structurally sound walls and roof supports. The floor is concrete. The building is worth saving.

The barn floor was covered with years of trash. Recently, I worked with County Jail Trustees to remove the trash. We filled two trash dumpsters with the contents. The now clean interior contains 616 square feet of storage space (14' X 44'). The building does need some repair. RESA Construction Trades Class Instructor Ross Pope has agreed to take on the repairs after the November 5 property closing date. The repairs will include:

- Replace worn out service door with a solid metal pre-hung hinge door
- Replace current worn out double sliders with new sliders
- Most of the interior space is open to the peak of the roof, except for the area of the two sliders. The 4 or 5 joists located in this area need inspection and at least one joist is a candidate for replacement
- Repair metal roof in one small area due to loss of metal sheeting that was been blow away by the wind. The full roof should probably be refastened

The Commission's 2013 Capital Improvement Budget has adequate funding to complete the above work.

There is one more project that Ross and his students will be doing for the Commission in 2013 – Insulating the ceiling above the beach house pipe chase. The pipe chase is heated to 50 degrees during winter months to prevent potential damage to the building's water and sewage lines. The pipe chase has never been insulated and the cost of operating the electric heater isn't cheap. The addition of insulation batts should result in a reduction to electric utility costs.

A Heartfelt 'Thank You' To 2013 Park Rangers

In the four summers that we've operated Motz County Park, the Commission has been blessed with hard working and smart individuals in its Park Ranger staff. This year was no exception. Park Manager/MSU CARRS Intern Andy Morse and Park Rangers Matt Meaton, Hunter Jordan and Jerry Dickson were highly effective in their duties and friendly representatives of Clinton County government. Thank you



Pictured from left: Park Manager Andy Morse, Park Rangers Matt Meaton and Hunter Jordan. Not pictured is Park Ranger Jerry Dickson.

Erosion Control – Success!

As I reported in May, this year's spring rains caused serious erosion damage to the sun beach and to the pedestrian walk to the shoreline. The damage was repaired in late May. In mid-June, acting on a design provided by C2AE, a local contractor re-graded the ground slope east of the walk. The work was done to effectively capture rainwater running down the walk and channel it to a drainage swale that eventually discharges the water to the lake without damage to the walk and sun beach. Throughout the summer, the erosion control project did its job. For three years, the sand-washed gully that re-appeared after each rain event for the past three years is no longer a maintenance problem. Park Rangers re-seeded the lawn but kept protective measures in place through Labor Day. It appears that the seed has taken and the new lawn appears healthy.

Post-Season Work Schedule

The main entrance gate was closed and locked for the cold weather season Labor Day evening. A gate-mounted sign instructs park visitors to use the north 12-vehicle gravel parking lot to access the park. On Thursday, September 26 Tim Machowicz, Park Ranger Hunter Jordan and I relocated picnic tables and trash receptacles from the picnic grounds to the shelter of the pavilion. Building and Grounds personnel have already begun the process of winterizing the beach house. On Tuesday and Wednesday, October 8 and 9 Park Manager Andy Morse and two County Jail Trustees will complete the following tasks:

- Fertilize 250 park trees
- Remove depth-marking buoys from swimming area and place in storage
- Remove wheelchair transfer device from beach and place in storage
- Transfer materials found in barn scheduled for demolition to proposed new storage barn
- Pick up and dispose of ground litter inside the park and along DeWitt Road

Greening Mid-Michigan Video Project

It's been one-year since Chuck Nelson and I proposed to Tri-County Regional Planning Commission ("TCRPC") the creation of an informational video as a next-step in advancing the goals and objectives of the Greening Mid-Michigan initiative. The proposal was accepted by TCRPC for funding under a HUD Sustainable Communities Grant in early 2013. The project, directed by Chuck Nelson and filmed by award-winning videographer Scott Allman, has proceeded throughout the summer. On Thursday, Mr. Allman presented the Greening Mid-Michigan Committee with an unedited viewing of his work. Significant editing will be required to fit the film into an approximate 26-minute time period allotted in a ½-hour television viewing. It's always good to have more content than necessary to complete a video project. Chuck's and Scott's challenge will be to edit the film in a manner that defines Greening for viewers and encourages citizens to take personal actions that lead to protecting and enhancing the environmental assets we depend on for an healthy and enjoyable lifestyle. The video will completed for public release in late 2013 / early 2014.

Clinton County Trails Advisory Council

The Council was created to assist in the review, adoption and implementation of the *Clinton County Non-Motorized Facilities Plan*. If and when adopted by the County Board of Commissioners, the Plan will take 20 or more years to be fully implemented. The Council will meet annually to establish implementation projects for five years out.

At the August 5 Clinton County Non-Motorized Facility Plan Workshop held at Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizer, Council members were identified except for who would represent the County Board of Commissioners. On Thursday, September 19 County Board Chair Bob Showers appointed Jack Enderle and Dave Pohl to the Council with approval of Finance and Personnel Committee members. The Council is now fully organized with 16 members representing key political and appointed government officials from throughout the county most impacted by the Plan and its proposed routes. The Council also includes a MDOT transportation planner, two members of the Tri-County Bicycle Association and a representative of the Michigan Association of Planning.

It's proposed to hold the first Council meeting during the month of October.

Other Duties Assigned to Parks and Green Space Coordinator

- Community Development Department – General Management
- Clinton County Govt. "Authorized Organization Representative" for Federal Grants