



NEWS YOU CAN USE!

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

Winter 2007

www.peninsulatownship.com

HOT TOPICS

► Nonconformance

Because of the shape of the peninsula and the vast amount of shoreline, the township has many non-conforming structures/lots that do not meet the zoning ordinance as they were in place prior to its inception. The Planning Commission has been working on an ordinance amendment for non-conforming structures which will be discussed at the January 9th Town Board meeting. If you have opinions about what should happen with non-conforming structures/lots, and what can or cannot be built/alterd, you are encouraged to attend this meeting.

► Scenic Heritage Road Designation

At the December 18th meeting, the Planning Commission voted to submit an application to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for designation of M-37 as a Scenic Heritage Route. The commission identified many benefits to Peninsula Township including the formation of a citizen's group with direct and scheduled communication with MDOT and the various agencies and utilities that impact the scenic quality of Center Road. This open dialogue will give the township more influence regarding tree clearing, signage, power pole location, road design, traffic control and light pollution. The stated purpose of the designation is to preserve and enhance the scenic, agricultural and rural qualities of M-37. The Town Board will hold an additional public input meeting on January 9th. If MDOT approves the application, there will be more time for public comment later in the process.

► Planning Inspectional Engineering Process Update

The first use of the Planning, Inspection and Engineering process (PIE) public information hearing between a developer and citizens went smoothly. Issues and concerns were presented to the developer and Planning Commission at the front end of the Bowers Harbor Inn project to get public input earlier in the process. The Hawthorne residential project is scheduled for a PIE meeting on January 15th at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

STAY INFORMED

Plan to attend the meetings, write letters and call Planning Commission and Town Board members to voice your concerns on these and other issues. To keep up with notices, agendas, reports, minutes and meetings, check the web site regularly at www.peninsulatownship.com. Issues currently being discussed at either the Town Board or Planning Commission:

- Dark Night Sky Ordinance to minimize the impact of lighting on the evening sky-scape
- Non-Contiguous Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) to transfer development rights to non-adjointing properties
- Master Plan revisions based on survey results
- The Orchards at Bowers Harbor PUD/Site Condominium located on Devil's Dive Road.
- Bowers Harbor Inn and Condominium PUD on Peninsula Drive
- Hawthorne residential project on Montague Road
- Old Mooring Place residential subdivision on Mission Road

TOWNSHIP WATER SERVICE DISTRICT UPDATE

In October, the township held a public information meeting to discuss capital improvements for our public water service district. Specific improvements are required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in order to comply with the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act. The township Water Service District is located south of Wilson Road and currently consists of approximately twelve miles of water main and one booster station. MDEQ is requiring the township to provide additional capital improvements, including a water storage reservoir to be located adjacent to Cherrywood Commons on Center Road. These improvements will allow the township to provide public drinking water to additional property owners within the Water Service District who are currently using private wells. The cost of the project will be approximately \$2.6 million. The township has initiated a 20-year low interest loan through the Michigan Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund. At the October 10, 2006 board meeting, the Town Board voted to establish a water benefit charge of \$3,800 for all new construction that connects to the system. In July 2007, all other properties with existing buildings will be charged the benefit fee at the time that they connect to the public water system. Prior to July 2007 existing buildings can connect without paying the benefit fee. Also, in January 2007, there will be a water rate increase for the portion of water used by households that exceeds 600 cubic feet per month. For more information call the township supervisor.

MEET KIM LAUTNER

We have a new Deputy Clerk, Kim Lautner. Kim has lived in Traverse City all of her adult life, is married and has two children. When Kim isn't working she is running...so if you see her running when you pass by, give her a thumbs up or stop in to introduce yourself the next time you come to the township office.



KUDOS

To the Old Mission Women's Club for planting 8 white pines in Bowers Harbor Park to commemorate the club's 75th anniversary and the 8 founding members.

To Rich and Pam VanderMey for donating the lobby Christmas tree.

To the Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society for planting nearly 200 trees along the M-37 corridor in the past few years. The trees are located outside of the road right-of-way and will create a canopy similar to the Centennial Trees of a century ago.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ We are wrapping up the final contracts for Round III of the PDR selection process and Round IV applicants have been ranked. We are currently assessing which applicants will accept federal matching funds to stretch our PDR tax dollars. Federal matching funds require that the farmer meet additional criteria which further limits their PDR contract with the Township.
- ▶ The Long-term Retirement Health Care remains in mediation. The township placed an offer on the table in December which is being evaluated now by all parties.

- ▶ The additional set of overhead lines in the vineyard by the Chateau Grand Traverse scenic turnout should come down some time in January, weather permitting.
- ▶ The Cemetery Committee has met twice and will be making recommendations to the Town Board regarding improvements for the 20 acre township cemetery property located on Peninsula Drive between Bowers Harbor and Kroupa Roads. Issues include availability of water, a designated parking area, site design, landscaping and an attractive entrance feature.
- ▶ A Dougherty House Estate Sale of collectibles and memorabilia will be conducted by the Peter Dougherty Society on January 27th at the Town Hall. Sale items include a large commercial coffee grinder, corn planters, picture frames, vintage clothing and fabrics, games, records, furniture, sewing machines and many other household items. All proceeds from the sale will go toward the restoration of the house. For more information contact Mary Ellen Byrne on 223-4193.

OPERATING INFO

- ▶ Just a reminder that winter taxes are due in the Treasurer's office no later than February 14th.
- ▶ If you are interested in learning more about the township budget, the Town Board will be working on it during the first quarter of 2007. Our fiscal year ends March 31st and we must have the new budget approved by then.
- ▶ Bring your Christmas tree to the Hull Park boat parking lot located behind the Traverse Area District Library on Boardman Lake from 8am to 5pm though January 21st. The county will chip and recycle the trees as mulch for nature trails.

HELP WANTED

- The township is beginning to study possible uses for the lighthouse at the end of the peninsula. We are also considering establishing a Historical Commission. Please let us know if you are interested in working on either committee.
- Needed: Zoning Board of Appeals Alternates to fill in occasionally when others are absent and PDR Selection Committee members to assess properties for inclusion in the PDR program.

Call 223-7322 to express your interest and find out more information about any of these opportunities or send a resume of your background to the Clerk, Peninsula Township, 13235 Center Road, 49686.

DIRECTORY

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Compactor/Recy. Station	223-4446
Fire Department (non-emergency)	223-4443
Old Mission Penin. School	933-7420
Park and Meeting Room Reservations	223-7322
Peninsula Comm. Library	223-7700
Sheriff (non-emergency)	223-4525

SCHEDULES and EVENTS

Town Board Meetings
 (second Tuesday at 7 pm)
 January 9
 February 13
 March 13

Planning Commission
 (third Monday at 7 pm)
 January 15
 February 12 (date change)
 March 19

Zoning Board of Appeals
 (second Thursday at 7 pm)
 January 11
 February 8
 March 8

Park Board
 (first Wednesday at 7 pm)
 January 3
 February 7
 March 7

Board of Review Valuation Appeals
 Town Hall
 Monday March 12
 9 am to noon and 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm
 Tuesday March 13
 1 pm to 4 pm and 6 pm to 9 pm

Peter Dougherty Society Estate Sale
 Saturday—January 27
 9 am to 3 pm
 Township offices lower level

Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society
 (first Thursday at 7 pm—Town Hall)
 January 4
 February 1
 March 1

American Legion Dinners
 (First and Third Tuesday—6:30 pm)
 American Legion Hall on Swaney Rd
 Public Welcomed

Peninsula Community Library
 Story Hour 1st and 3rd Thursday (11 am)
 Book Discussion 3rd Thursday (7 pm)

Compactor Station Hours:
 Wednesdays, noon—6 pm
 Saturdays, 9 am—5 pm
 Recycling at any time

Peninsula Township Office is open:
 Monday through Friday
 8 am until noon and 1:00 pm until 4:30 pm
 The office will be closed on February 19th
 (Presidents' Day)

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Peninsula Township
 13235 Center Road
 Traverse City, MI 49686

