

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

13235 Center Road, Traverse City MI 49686
Phone: 231.223.7322 Fax: 231.223.7117
www.peninsulatownship.com

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE Regular Committee Meeting March 27, 2024

MINUTES 7:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order** by Zebell at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** Butler, Dahl, Milliken, Murphy, Zebell. Absent-Chown, Skurski,
4. **Approve Agenda** Milliken moved to approve the agenda with a second by Murphy.
Approved by Consensus
5. **Brief Citizens Comments (for agenda items only)** None
6. **Conflict of Interest** None
7. **Consent Agenda:** any member of the committee, staff, or the public may ask that any item on the consent agenda be removed and placed elsewhere on the agenda for full discussion.
 - A. Minutes from January 24, 2024
 - B. Correspondence from Cherry Capital Cycling Club "2024 Grant Program" January 16, 2024
 - C. Parks Budget

Milliken moved to approve the consent agenda with a second by Butler.

Approved by Consensus

8. **Business**

A. PNA Naturalization-Murphy/Hager

Richard Hager 6273 Summit Ct presented a Pelizzari Natural Area Project Proposal (PowerPoint at end of minutes). The proposal is to remove non-native invasive plants on three 1 acre plots and replant with native grasses and colorable fobes (flowers). This creates improvements to the view scape and aids in establishing wild life habit for native species. Soil improvement accelerates to aid reforestation. The detailed specifics of the process, benefits, and costs were detailed in the PowerPoint.

Zebell: so there is no need for water?

Hager: no water or fertilizer required. Fertilizer is the bane to native plant species. Native plants get what is needed from the soil. The estimated cost is \$12,000 or \$4,000 per acre.

Steve Lagerquist Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC): I read the management plan for Pelizzari and there are not specifics to do native planting. The plan does contain language regarding removing invasives and planting native plants. Native plants encourage native species of insects and animals. This is a fantastic plan.

Murphy: another factor with the management plan is soil disruption is supposed to be at a minimum. These proposed actions will not touch the soil. Twenty acres of the 63 acre park was farmland and all the trees were removed with no budget to do anything afterwards. The conservancy found many creative

Peninsula Township
Parks Committee Meeting
March 27, 2024 7:00 p.m.
Lola Jackson Transcribing Secretary
DRAFT MINUTES

ways to bring in some plantings. Individuals planted white pines. There have been 3 Eagle Scout projects and the land conservancy received some grants. This has not been nearly enough funding for the last 16 year years. I recommend beginning with the required mowing now and fund raise throughout the summer for planting in the fall.

Zebell: since the budget has not yet been approved, there might be a possibility to make adjustments to fund this proposal. Mr. Hager would be donating his time and expertise and the cost of \$4,000 per acre is primarily for herbicides and seeds.

The committee made no formal motion at this time.

B. Signage at PNA and all Parks-Murphy/Lagerquist

Steve Lagerquist GTRLC presented the signage (kiosk) design for Pelizzari from the meeting packet. The committee has the funding from the 2023-2024 budget and wants to be part of the conservancy summer sign order. Zebell and Murphy will meet to finalize the signage language.

C. BHP Pavilion Reservation Applications-Butler/Skurski

Linda Sommerville 6645 Mission Ridge

Sommerville applied for a Celebration of Life memorial event for her father at Bowers Harbor Park. The request is for 75-100 people on August 16, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 6 p.m. The application included the required liability insurance policy.

Murphy moved to approve the reservation application with a second from Milliken.

Approved by Consensus

The committee reviewed the application from Ryan and Melissa Schrock for use of Bowers Harbor Park Pavillions on June 1, 2024 from 12 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is a graduation celebration. The request is for 150 people. Events with over 50 people require a special use permit and liability insurance, which the Schrocks provided.

Milliken moved to approve the reservation application with a second by Butler.

Approved by Consensus

D. BHP Commemorative Bench Request-Skurski/Zebell

Linda Sommerville requested a commemorative bench for Sam and Carol Mitchell within Bowers Harbor Park. Butler and Zebell will discuss placement and contact Sommerville directly.

E. Grand Traverse Band Local 2% Allocation Distribution, February 2, 2024-Zebell

Zebell: The township received a grant for \$37,500 from the Grand Traverse Band Local 2% Allocation Distribution. Youth Works and AmeriCorps will provide the labor in removal of invasive plants from the Bowers Harbor Park Expansion, which is the focus of the grant.

F. Thomas Foundation Grant-Chown

Zebell: the Thomas Foundation has given \$10,000 for the Kelly Boat Launch. Zebell will write a thank you on behalf of the township and parks committee.

G. Meeker Addition to PNA-Murphy

Murphy: Claire Herman of the GTRLC played a large role in working through legalities for completing the purchase of the Pelazzari expansion, also known as the Meeker addition. Herman met with the town board and gained approval for the purchase. There was a balance in the Pelazzari account and was used as seed money to incentivize the GTRLC to pursue additional funding. There will be no new tax dollars to township residents. The parcel will be owned by the township.

H. Pruning Concerns-Zebell/Skurski

Zebell: I want to make sure all requests for pruning have been sent to me. Parshall Tree Care is going to do the work.

Peninsula Township
Parks Committee Meeting
March 27, 2024 7:00 p.m.
Lola Jackson Transcribing Secretary
DRAFT MINUTES

I. Volunteer List next Steps-Milliken

Milliken asked committee members to think about volunteer opportunities in their individual parks. Milliken can post these opportunities on Nextdoor.

J. Topics for April Parks Meeting-Zebell

Zebell: potential topics for the April meeting might include the use of drones/ commercial filming in the parks, Bowers Harbor Park designated parking, pickleball court usage and hours, e-bike usage on state parkland, food trucks within peninsula township parks, track club donations, and weddings at Hessler Log Cabin. I am putting topics driven by ordinances as business action items. Emails received will go in the consent agenda. Skurski had talked about having an historical sign at each park to show what the land was like before becoming a park. The historical society will be contacted to help with this project.

9. Citizen Comments

Mark Elliott 7670 East Shore Rd

Elliott: I live near Pelazzari Park and walk there frequently. The presentation by Mr. Hager was very interesting. I have seen these restored prairies while riding my bicycle across Iowa. They are absolutely amazing and gorgeous. It would be wonderful to restore native plants and grasslands in Pellarzzi.

Chris Reiser 1087 Lockmoor Lane

Reiser: I am president of the Peter Dougherty Society. When we heard the parks committee was working on uniform signage, we were interested. Stylistically, we could have our signage match those of the parks. We looked at the signs for the way finding posts and found them useful. We now have about 13 signs.

10. Committee Comments None

11. Adjournment Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Milliken.

Approved by Consensus

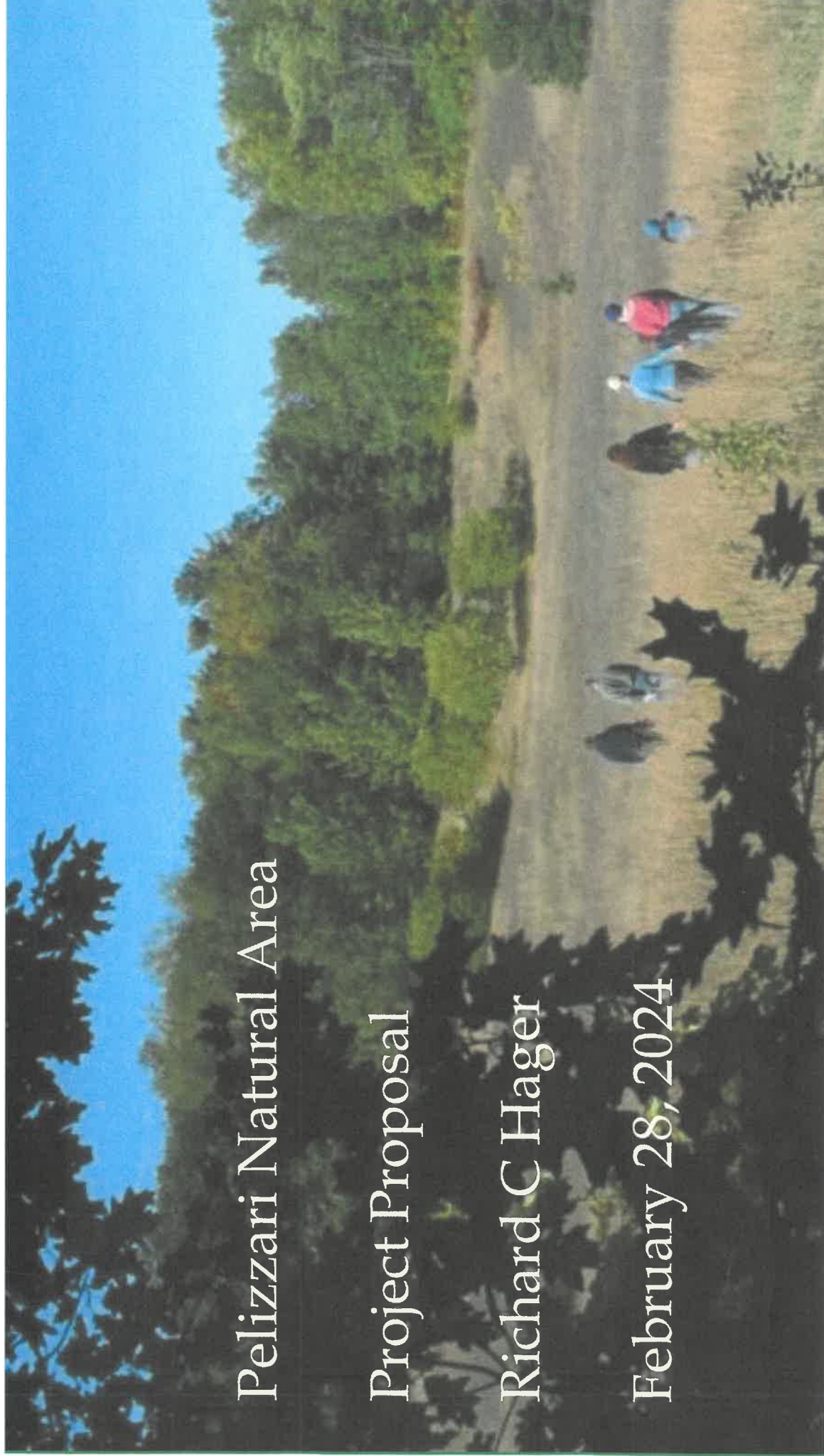
Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Pelizzari Natural Area

Project Proposal

Richard C Hager

February 28, 2024



Pelizzari Natural Area Project Proposal

Replace non-native invasive weeds on 3 one-acre plots with a diverse and sustainable planting of native grasses and colorful forbs to:

- improve viewscape and enhance visitor experience
- create wildlife habitat for native species
- improve soil quality to accelerate forest restoration

Richard C Hager

Vietnam Era Veteran

Master of Science - Geology University of Iowa

Mobil Oil - Exploration Geologist 18 years

Associate of Science- Kirkwood CC
Landscape Design
Parks and Natural Resource Mgt

United States Fish & Wildlife Service 16+ years
Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge
BioScience Technician
Tallgrass Prairie Restoration

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
Volunteer - 4 years
Greenhouse, Plantings, Seed
Collection, Invasive Plant Removal

Prairie Learning Center



Pelizzari Natural Area Project Proposal

The Process

- Select three one-acre plots in strategic locations at PNA
- Prepare sites for planting by mowing 3 times. (~April, July, September)
- Install signage to inform and educate the public about the process of restoration (April)
- Allow for green up and herbicide spray plots (Rodeo, Milestone) to kill non-native species (October)
- Broadcast native forb and grass seed with a cover crop (~January)
- Mow plots three times first year (~April, July, September), twice second year (~April, July) and once (~April) third year
- Volunteers to hand weed plots as needed. Spot spray herbicide as needed.

Pefizzari Natural Area - proposed planting sites 2024

Trails



Natural Area Boundary



Proposed Planting Sites (~1 acre each)



Pelizzari Natural Area Project Proposal

Benefits

- Replace non-native invasive weeds with a diverse and sustainable planting of native grasses and colorful forbs to improve viewscape and enhance visitor experience
- Increase biodiversity, improve wildlife habitat, provide food and refuge for imperiled pollinator species
- Potential source of native plant seeds that could be used to expand PNA plantings or start new plantings elsewhere at a reduced cost
- Signage intended to be informative and engaging while managing expectations
- Plantings will not inhibit tree seedling establishment but will improve soil quality and provide habitat for native species for many years
- Requires minimum maintenance once established

Pelizzari Natural Area Project Proposal

Costs

- Site preparation mowing – rotary, flail, disc or sickle bar depending on site ~\$1000
- Signage and trespass barriers ~\$500
- Herbicides – Roundup/Milestone ~\$100 per 1 acre plot or \$300 for the project
- Herbicide application by backpack sprayer or spray rig ~\$500
- Native seed mix and cover crop ~\$2700 per 1 acre plot or \$8100 for the project
- Broadcast seeding by hand or tractor ~\$300
- Maintenance mowing – rotary only ~\$1000
- Volunteer weed management and seed collection ~\$0

Pelizzari Natural Area Project Proposal

Summary

- Restore 3 acres of non-native invasive weeds to a diverse and sustainable planting of native grasses and colorful forbs that improves the viewscape and enhances the visitor's experience
- Restoration efforts will engage the public, increase interest and highlight potential for further enhancements to natural areas.
- Plantings will not inhibit tree seedling establishment but will improve soil quality and provide habitat for native species for many years
- Total project cost of ~\$12,000