

**Elmwood Township Parks and Recreation Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 15, 2006**

- 1. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call** – Present were Derith Smith, Matt Heiman from the Leelanau Conservancy, Marilyn Schmidt, Lori Leugers and Fred Plamondon
- 3. Approval of Agenda** – No vote was taken
- 4. Approval of Minutes** – Fred noted a correction to be made with reference to Terry Lautner’s comments from the “Marina Committee’s” minutes. The minutes were actually from the Township Board meeting minutes. Motion by Smith, seconded by Leugers to approve the minutes of the 8/1 meeting minutes with correction per Fred Plamondon - Unanimously approved.
- 5. Matt Heiman to discuss Management Plan for Elmwood Township & DeYoung Natural Area** – Matt presented more details for the Options 1 & 2. He noted that the Trust Fund is seeing more and more of these types of requests coming in. Because the option is fairly new to the Trust Fund Board, they have not created an official policy yet, but so far, it does not appear to be holding up applications. He also noted that Linda Haegstrom, who is reviewing Elmwood Township’s current grant application, is part of the group tasked with making this policy.

Matt stated that Leelanau Conservancy would advocate on behalf of Elmwood Township’s development project and how it ties together with the DeYoung Project.

Derith noted that we had received a preliminary scoring of 240 on our grant, but that we were likely to be able to get some additional points (according to Klaus) because of additional items that they asked for, such as economic data.

Derith wanted clarification on Option 1 with respect to who would be responsible for matching funds. Matt stated that he assumed that the Leelanau Conservancy would be. Derith said that this should be clarified for the Elmwood Township Board.

Marilyn stated her concern about the DeYoung property ultimately losing its ‘natural’ environment with over-use. Matt explained that the Conservancy is working on a management plan to minimize this very issue.

He went on to explain that the fishing platform will likely be northeast of Heinz Creek, and the trail leading to it is going to be shorter than originally designated, with a possible spur through the cedar forest. They may have a nature trail further south which will not go all the way to the lake.

Matt then presented a copy of the warranty deed for the DeYoung property, which listed the property development restrictions that are incorporated into it.

He also brought a copy of a press release for the Crystal River Oxbow property purchase. Matt explained that this was an example of a municipality (Glen Arbor Township) purchasing property from the Conservancy, with the conservancy retaining a conservation easement to the property.

The last item that Matt presented at the meeting was a draft of a conservation easement that the Leelanau Conservancy has with the State of Michigan for property on the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula. He provided this for the committee to review sample language that might be included in an easement for the DeYoung Property.

Matt is waiting to get some feedback from Linda Haegstrom on other townships that have pursued options like Option #1, and will report back to the committee when he gets her feedback. Derith asked if Matt was aware of any municipalities or conservancies that were working with the state in similar situations, with first right of refusal language incorporated into their agreements. Matt said that he was aware of this, and that the key to this working is having the property appraise at full market value.

Matt requested that the committee decide on a representative who will attend meetings in Lansing with the Conservancy. He said he would provide the committee with more details about ideal qualifications for this person before our next scheduled meeting.

Derith noted that it is very important for the Conservancy to present information to the full board before going much further.

**6. Klaus Heinert Update on Grant Progress** – Klaus was not at the meeting.

**7. Beach Grooming update (Fred and Chuck)** – Fred reported that he went down to the beach on a day that Chuck was grooming in the designated area. Fred noted that the beach is looking good and a lot of people are using it this year. The purple loosestrife eradication during May's beach clean-up appears to be successful, but he would like to do some follow-up. There was some discussion about what would be the best time of year and process to follow for this. Derith reminded Lori of communication between Anne Braise of The Watershed Center and a gentleman from the Grass River Natural Center organization regarding Purple Loosestrife. Lori will follow up with that and report back to the committee.

**8. Old Business** – None.

**9. New Business** – None

**10. Next Meeting** – Tuesday, 9/12 at 5:30 p.m. at Elmwood Township Hall

**11. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.