

# MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP

*William Seppanen, Supervisor*

*Neil Hanson, Clerk*

*Nicole Haskett, Treasurer*

PO Box 220

Michigamme, MI 49861

Phone: 906-323-6608

*Julia Anderson-Leake, Trustee*

*Donald DeRoche, Trustee*

[admin@michigametownship.com](mailto:admin@michigametownship.com)

## MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

JANUARY 26, 2021, 5:00 PM

VIA ZOOM – Meeting ID 571 416 4947

ATTENDANCE: Board Members: On site via Zoom: William Seppanen, Donald DeRoche  
Via Zoom Off-site: Nicole Haskett, Julia Anderson-Leake  
Via Phone Off-site: Neil Hanson

Public: Debbie Kinnunen, Ruth Starr, Robert Saxwold, Beth Koenig, Irene DeRoche, Janice Anderson, Lisa Sarvello, Rhonda and Scott Gravedoni, John and Rose McBride, Robert DellAngelo, Jean Howe, Roberta Frisk, Kay Frisk, Larry Frisk, Rhonda Boshears, Whitney Saunders

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Seppanen called the public hearing to order at 5:02 pm.
- II. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS – Seppanen, DeRoche, Anderson-Leake, Haskett, and Hanson are in attendance. There is a quorum.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – recited.
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING THE MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP 5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN 2021-2026 -
  - Irene DeRoche read the letter she sent to the Michigamme Board requesting the “Pocket Park” be added to the Recreation Inventory even though the Township doesn’t own the land.
  - Lisa Sarvello stated her views regarding the area of land for the requested amendment.
  - Robert Saxwold stated the history with the former Township Board in 2016 regarding the area of land formerly owned by the Brewers (his in-laws) that was blocked by the Gazebo being placed in the road right of way.
  - Robert DellAngelo thanked the Planning Commission for the hard work invested in the Recreation Plan.
  - Rose McBride stated that since she has been living in Michigamme she noticed minimal activity at the Gazebo until the Gravedoni’s purchased the Brewer’s lot.
  - John McBride stated he agreed that the amendment should not be added to the current Recreation Plan and that the Township has other issues to address like the 1903 school yard.
  - Jean Howe stated that the new people that have purchased land in the Township don’t have the same feelings about the area that the people who have lived here a long time.
  - Roberta Frisk stated that the area mentioned is public land and shouldn’t be sold to a private person.
  - Beth Howe stated that Township people have more rights to the land than new people that just moved here, and states that the Road Commission gave the Township permission to place the Gazebo there.
  - Kay Frisk stated the history of the Township Park and baseball field being used in the past; that the Recreation Plan was changed from 2019 and there is 75 feet of road right of way on the lot mentioned.
  - Larry Frisk states that there were 220 people that signed a petition and 80 people who attended a Board meeting that wanted the “Pocket Park” to be protected.
  - Rhonda Gravedoni read the letter she sent to the Michigamme Board regarding the “Pocket Park” and recommends that the Board not include the amendment requested to the Recreation Plan as the Marquette County Road Commission (MCRC) states that the Gazebo must be moved off the road right of way.
  - Rhonda Boshears stated that the land that is being used for recreation should not be sold.
  - William Seppanen read a letter that Jean Howe and Roberta Frisk submitted as their comment.
  - Jan Anderson stated that the 2019 draft Recreation Plan was not valid since the proper procedure was not followed (public hearing, notice 30 days in advance, etc.) so the Plan would not have been accepted. Also there seems to be some confusion because the current Recreation Plan was taken from the 2019 DDA Town Plan which is not the same as the 2015 Michigamme Township Recreation Plan filed with the DNR.
  - Scott Gravedoni stated that the Recreation Plan discussion is not about selling them property, the property with the Gazebo on it is in the County Road Right of Way.
- V. ADJOURNMENT – Anderson-Leake moved to adjourn the Public Hearing meeting with DeRoche seconding the motion. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried. Public Hearing adjourned at 5:49 pm.