

Minutes of Mission Township Park Committee Meeting August 11, 2025

The meeting was held at Mission Park at 8:00 a.m.

Present: Committee members and others present or participating were Jim Peterson, Michael Blassey, Jim Strampe, Bob Steele, and Tim Moody.

Tennis courts: Jim P. mentioned he, Bob, and Michael had recently met with Outdoor Specialties from Pine River and Bob had signed a work order for \$1,580 to repair the cracks on the courts. Bob indicated he had talked to Nate Sauvageau recently and Nate indicated they would get to the repairs fairly soon. There was also discussion about Nate's recommendation to clean the courts with Wet & Forget. The committee agreed we should purchase the product and apply it ourselves.

It was agreed any replacements of windscreens will be delayed until 2026. There are a few replacement screens in the shed.

Tractor and other mechanical items: There was continued discussion from the last committee meeting about the tractor and what might be the best replacement or supplement to assist with mowing and other items. Bob raised whether the addition of a zero-turn mower might be beneficial, and to keep the existing tractor since it can be used for mowing and plowing. After discussion Bob indicated he would look into zero-turn mowers a bit more. There was also discussion about obtaining a small trailer again. Michael mentioned he may know of one available at a minimal price and will check on it. Any equipment purchases might be bundled with other park items if the Board decides to apply for a grant to fund park expenditures.

There are several pieces of equipment formerly used at the park that are no longer used. Those items should be further identified and discussed at a Board meeting for sale or disposal.

Light pole replacement – parking lot: The large wooden light pole overlooking the parking lot came down during a recent storm. It had rotted at the base. Bob will followup with Timberidge Electric on a replacement. The committee agreed we should replace with a steel pole similar to the one at the townhall.

Park fees and use of amenities: Committee members agreed in general that no amenities other than the pavilion (and pickleball courts under the reservation system) can be reserved. There would be too much work administering a reservation system for other items. And the group believes all amenities should be available to the public each day. Bob mentioned he had recently been contacted by Pequot Lakes Junior High to see if the school could use our tennis courts for practice and games for awhile since the Crosslake courts are not completed yet and Bob stated that was fine.

There was discussion about the rental rate for the pavilion. The current fee is \$150 for groups of 50 people or less and \$300 for more than 50. The fees only apply if the person/organization requesting the reservation is not a property owner within the township. The largest group by far each year is Clow which holds an annual picnic at which several hundred or perhaps 1,000 people attend. Due to the extra work in preparing for large groups and the strain on the bathrooms at the park (extra pumping needed) it was suggested the fee for Clow (and other large groups if applicable) be increased. The committee mentioned possibly increasing the fee to \$500 or \$1,000. It was suggested this be discussed at the monthly township meeting.

There was also discussion about whether the township should adopt a no smoking or no alcohol policy at the park. That will be part of a bigger discussion at a township meeting.