

Milton Township

Parks & Recreation Committee

12/13/21

Committee members present: Gray, Kingon, Kopkau, Weinzapfel, Shaw, Atkinson
Also present: Fields Ratliff & Steve Lagerquist of Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

Minutes of 11-19-21 approved: Kingon/Weinzapfel

Ted Shaw provided information regarding proposed groomed trails at Maplehurst. Ted volunteered to be the contact if the township approved grooming trails for cross-country skiing. Group discussions/questions:

- Who repairs the donated snowmobile? *To be determined.*
- Where would it be stored? *To be determined.*
- How much snow is required before grooming? *4" plus*
- Is it preferred to keep other activities off the groomed trails? *Yes, it is preferred, but impossible to enforce.*
- Signage would be needed to designate what activities are preferred on the groomed trails.
- Liability waivers would need to be completed by all grooming volunteers.

Steve Lagerquist, GTRLC, commented on what to expect if you start grooming:

Once you start grooming, it will be expected daily. Another issue to be aware of is when people see snowmobile tracks, they will assume snowmobiles are allowed, when they are not.

Also, winter tracks from grooming will leave a ghost trail and people will use it in spring and summer resulting in hiking trails where you don't want them, with the designated hiking trails less used.

Expanding the parking area was discussed. It was noted that often times the parking lot is full. This may be due to more outdoor activities due to the pandemic. Committee members and GTRLC staff will monitor and make the appropriate recommendations.

Topic of down trees discussed. Milton Township Fire Department is happy to run occasional drills to keep trails open for safety and emergency needs, but larger trees and frequent needs should be addressed by a licensed contractor to be determined by the township board. GTRLC will discuss this need and let us know the level of their participation in monitoring and keeping trails clear of fallen trees and debris.

Motion to recommend to the township board consideration of a trial run of cross-country groomed, citing the pros/cons; Kingon/Gray. Motion carried.

Pending Actions: Request for all committee members to read Chapter 5 of the Park & Rec plan for discussion and updates.

Next Meeting: Early-mid January, to be determined.

Minutes by Atkinson