

**Township of Alabaster Board of Trustees**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Public Hearing - Lake Huron Coastal Preserve Proposal**  
**March 8, 2021**  
**Alabaster Township Hall**  
**AlabasterTownship.com**

**DRAFT**

1. Welcome

- The Alabaster Township Board of Trustees PUBLIC HEARING on the LAKE HURON COSTAL PRESERVE PROPOSAL was called to order by supervisor Stephanie Wentworth at 5:00pm on Monday, March 8, 2021. Due to MDHHS orders (Act 254 of 2020) the meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

2. Roll Call and Recognition of Presenters

Board Members:

Supervisor: Stephanie Wentworth	Present
Clerk: Jasmine Tubbs	Present
Treasurer: Lorraine Paskiewicz	Present
Trustee: Joe Czaika	Present
Trustee: Harold Coles	Present

Presenters:

Heather Huffstutler	Huron Pines
Abigail Ertel	Huron Pines
Cynthia Fowler	TWP Park & Rec Committee

3. Zoom Orientation

- Abigal Ertel presented the Zoom orientation for muting and responding to poll questions.

4. Introductions by Parks and Recreation committee

- Cynthia Fowler presented the recommendation from the Alabaster Township Parks and Recreation Committee

5. Grant proposal and Township's potential plan

- Heather Huffstutler presented the project information through slides, maps and photos. See attachments.

6. Public Comment

- Public Comment was started with Zoom polling questions. See below.
- Karen Zimmerman (Pinewood) - Thinks it is a wonderful project and appreciates doing it
- Mike Cwik (West Branch) - Thinks project is wonderful and reminds him of other parks in Michigan such as Kensington park
- Tobias Webber (Saginaw) - Thrilled, and thinks it is the best use for the property. Wondering if phragmitis issues would be addressed. Questioned if Alabaster Township revenue would be impacted once the taxable property is owned by the Township. Also stated Huron Pines is great to work with from past experience.

- Tim Lutz (Benson Road) – Supports the park, thinks it is great coming off of the bike path. Does not support overnight stay or bath house that would encourage overnight stays. Suggested park hours are dawn to dusk.
- Lee Starling – In support of the project, great project. Questioned if any of the funding would have an impact on taxes to resident
  - i. Huffstutler answered and clarified that this proposal is for a straight grant from the State of Michigan and would not impact property or sales taxes to residents.
- Michael Busch – Does not want to see camping or overnight stays in park, but does see a need for restrooms. Also offered to volunteer as need for the project.
- Tony Piazza (Whitney Township) – Great project and offered to volunteer as needed for the project. Suggested making it an inclusive park where children and adults with disabilities could play as one. Provide names of other parks as examples.
- Carole Cole – Mentioned in the chat that Dow Gardens in Midland also has a beautiful inclusive outdoor space.
- Jay O’Farrell (Iosco County Board of Commissioner Chair) - Stated the Iosco County Board of Commissioners will be approving a resolution to support the project. Also the Eastern Michigan Council of Governments is also in a support of the project and will provide a letter of support.
- Ruth Golm – Asked if individuals or groups can contribute funds for the project
  - i. Huffstutler stated that at this time there is no public fundraising occurring.

7. Adjourn

- *Tubbs made a motion, seconded by Paskiewicz, to adjourn meeting. At 5:55pm the March 8, 2021 Special Meeting of the Alabaster Township Board of Trustees PUBLIC HEARING on the LAKE HURON COSTAL PRESERVE PROPOSAL closed.*

Attachment: Poll Questions and Results

Poll Question	Poll Answers Options	Participants Answers	
What's your connection to the region?	Pay attention to Township activities	1	2.6%
	Live in Alabaster Township seasonally	9	23.1%
	Live in Alabaster Township year-round	8	20.5%
	Live in Tawas City or East Tawas seasonally	1	2.6%
	Live in Tawas City or East Tawas year-round	7	17.9%
	Live outside area, but recreate/visit in the area	13	33.3%
In your opinion, what are the aspects of this property that make it a good public park? (pick all that apply)	Undeveloped Shoreline	30	28.6%
	Lake Access	15	14.3%
	Woodlands and quiet trails	25	23.8%
	Habitat for plants and animals	18	17.1%
	Close to home	10	9.5%
	Close to other recreational assets	7	6.7%
Do you feel it is a good goal for the Township to acquire a lakefront park?	Yes	40	100%
	No	0	0%
What would you most look forward to experiencing at this park? (Can only pick one!)	Lake Access	5	12.5%
	Hiking	15	37.5%
	Birding/Wildlife	11	27.5%
	Bike Trail Connection	6	15.0%
	Dark Sky	2	5.0%
	Fishing Access	1	2.5%
	Kayak	0	0.0%

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmine Tubbs, Clerk