

FROM	email	RECEIVED	CONTENTS
<b>Jared Pike</b>	email	1/2/2012	<p>Strangely enough, I didn't see anything in regards to increasing sportsmen activities (with the exception of a fishing pier, which creates no habitat, therefore no more fish), mostly in the form of hunting Whitetail Deer, Ruffed Grouse, Ducks and Turkeys, and the habitat that needs to be created on and around the Beaver Island Archipelago????? Would you like to comment about that? Please tell me that this is an omission based on forgetfulness and not an anti-hunting and anti-forest utilization bias. The fact that a "Birding Festival" was prominently displayed, is in fact a joke.....please tell me how much money these festivals have brought to BI, and local businesses? I would then like to compare the amount of money spent from hunters and fishermen/women who frequent the island much more, and spend much more on resources being shipped on and off the island.....JOKE!!!! To the naked eye, this looks like another slanted piece of garbage, brought about by the left-winged nut jobs, that that need not be named. If you are actually interested in Beaver Island Recreation Plan, the plan should start by not just including the idiots ideas.</p>
<b>Audrey Van Dyke</b>	email	1/5/2012	<p>I'm a new resident here hope it's ok to send in a few comments when I've been here for such a short time. Regarding the possible indoor exercise facility I just wanted to pass along that the lack of one was my major impediment to moving here. As is the case with many other friends I've talked to, I have a dream of getting into shape in retirement. Adding such a facility, even a small basic one, might prove important in getting a few more people to retire here year round.</p> <p>We ended up with a large enough garage to allow us to set up an exercise room. Should you set up a facility, I will commit to donating an excellent machine for people with arthritis which I am now using in the garage. It's called a nustep, and is developed specifically for people who have difficulties exercising.</p> <p>Next, but a much more complicated offer, is that should you desire to take on the space, insurance and maintenance demands, I will also offer to donate a 14 foot long, 4 foot deep fiberglass swim spa I purchased used on Craigslist. It's also in the garage. I have severe arthritis limitations, and swim in the lake in the summer, and just recently set this up for winter use. This would present the issues I mentioned of space and resources, but I want to at least put the offer up there if it would be of use to others who would benefit from winter water exercise. If you want to look it up online it's the hydro pool aqua trainer 14 foot model, the fx version. I think it's about 10 years old. The nustep is the 4000 model. Also bought used but completely refurbished and requires very little maintenance.</p>

Finally, I have a request for an additional consideration in the draft plans to make one of the beaches handicapped accessible. The draft mentions adding the ability to roll down to the beach in a wheelchair. There is another issue for people who are able to walk, but have limitations. With severe knee arthritis, walking on sand which shifts under your feet is hard. A cane gets you through the sand to the water's edge but at that point you're stymied. It's very difficult to get past the point of entry into the water and the first several yards of shallow water. I manage by using a cane for several feet into the water, then tossing the cane back onto the sand. (You choose an unpopulated part of the beach for this maneuver.) Getting out is awful - either you beg a favor from somebody on land to hand you your cane, or exit excruciatingly slowly and painfully with the wet sand shifting under your feet and threatening your stability. Having some sort of railing to grab onto leading a short distance into the water would make it so much easier. The ramp at the Bill Wagner campground is helpful, but at an awkward height and angle. It does give you a place to leave your cane and retrieve it coming back out as long as nobody comes along with a boat and inadvertently smashes it. Anyway, the point of this long discussion is to request consideration of some sort of railing to hang onto for a few feet on each side of the shoreline while entering and exiting the water at one of the beaches. I have no idea what this would cost but would donate \$250 to the cause.

Thanks for asking for our concerns. I truly love living here and would be delighted to share the exercise equipment I brought with me by giving them to a community exercise facility if either the nustep or the pool would be useful.

**Kirk McBride** email

1/2/2012

Very nice job on the Recreation Plan. One correction or clarification on Pg 5, #11, where it is indicated that the two Township lots at the Corner Park are "open to the public", which is incorrect. The two Township lots are designated for "residential use only" per the PSJA Restrictive Covenant which runs with the land regardless of ownership. It can not be called a public park or open to the public. This issue was challenged a few years ago and the St. James Township attorney concurred with our attorney via a letter to the Township and PSJA.

Please correct it prior to finalizing the plan. My suggestion is to just eliminate it, striking #11, or better yet listing it under PSJA for use by members and guests. This will not change anything other than to clarify it is not open to the public. The current PSJA practice is that we know it is used by nonmembers which is not a problem unless such use becomes a detriment or liability to PSJA and its members. At this time, we have no intention of policing it or restricting its use. We simply need to be clear that it is not open to the public.

PSJA needs to be assured that the lots are not designated "open to the public".

Please contact me should you have any questions and confirm the correction when completed. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

**Phil Hoffman** email

1/5/2012

While at SeaTac yesterday waiting for my flight I reviewed the document on the BI Forum and it looked ok to me. Good Job!

<b>Jack Spanhak</b>	email	1/5/2012	Thanks for remembering and the action you'll take to take care of this matter.
<b>Kirk McBride</b>	email	1/5/2012	<p>Thanks for the response. With all do respect, I believe you can strike it from a township listing and are required to do so. The two lots in question can only be used as "residential". PSJA has no problem with your listing the Corner Park as PSJA property under PSJA box but not to list those lots as owned by the township. I would recommend that you ask Rick Speck for his opinion as township supervisor and if it differs from our position, we can have our legal counsel contact you for clarification.</p> <p>If the Recreation Plan lists those lots as township property which would cause confusion for the public, PSJA will file an injunction to halt the plan from being published until the issue is legally resolved.</p>
<b>Neil Boyle</b>	conversation	1/4/2012	Raised possibility of acquiring the Traverse City steam engine and railroad line for an attraction on Beaver Island
<b>Bob Tidmore</b>	letter	1/5/2012	<p>First of all thanks for the development of the plan, very well organized and executed. I do have a couple of comments concerning the Recreation Inventory portion and have listed them below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a boat launch at the end of Gallagher Lane and according to the enclosed letter from Pat Harmon of the Charlevoix Road Commission this road is approximately 20-21.2 feet in width and is specifically dedicated for "<u>public use</u>"</li> <li>2. You mention the vacant harbor property(No. 10 in your table) and state that it is open to the public with "restricted use". My question is why is the use restricted? It wold seem that this is an ideal are for the public and specifically visitors to the island to use for a picnic area or just enjoying the water. With the exception of the Veterans Memorial Park there is no access to the water from the downtown area to the lighthouse. I would think signage should be installed to state this property is available for use by the general public. Maybe some picnic tables could be placed there too.</li> <li>3. Your item No. 23 lists various islands in our archipelago however I understand from the Wildlife Club's efforts with the Cormorant's, some of them are not open to the public, specifically Hat, Gull and I believe Pismire. Access is under the jurisdiction of the Seney National Park. Whiskey island access could be restricted also unless the Township included "public access rights " to the island as a condition of any land swap with the DNR.</li> <li>4. Lastly while we all agree that the invasive species issue is important to the island I do not believe it should be part of a recreation plan.</li> </ol> <p>I would ask that this letter be made available to the public.</p>

<b>Peter Igoe</b>	email	1/7/2012	<p>What is the possibility of including a practice backboard for the tennis courts. This would be widely used by island tennis players and particularly by the aspiring student tennis players of the Beaver Island Community School. The school uses the courts regularly during the spring and a backboard would offer the opportunity to further develop tennis skills. Tennis is a sport that can be played by all generations and it is a lifetime skill, witness the number of 60-80 year old players who use the courts during the season. The cost would probably be in the range of \$3-4,000. A plan is attached as an Excel file.</p>
<b>Steve &amp; Elaine West</b>	email	1/9/2012	<p>We commend the fine job Pete Plastrik has done in surveying Beaver Islander's and developing the proposed 2012 – 2016 Recreational Plan.</p> <p>We have only one suggestion.</p> <p>In the last few years, lead by Jeff Powers DVM and other Island sportsmen, significant progress has been made in improving the opportunities for successful enjoyment of our Island's traditional outdoor recreation - hunting and fishing.</p> <p>Beaver Island is a state wide leader in Quality Deer Management (QDM) and the future looks bright. Fly fishing for carp in the Beaver Archipelago has gained national publicity. This flats style of fresh water fishing is gaining rapidly in popularity according to <i>Field &amp; Stream</i> magazine. The small mouth bass are recovering rapidly and trophy size fish are being caught regularly. Hunting and fishing offer significant economic opportunity for Beaver Island in both the short and long term.</p> <p>We suggest one additional, the tenth, "Action Program."</p> <p><u>(10) Continued Support for Traditional Outdoor Sportsmen</u></p> <p>St James Township recognized the economic importance and family values associated with the traditional outdoor sports of hunting and fishing. As well as working with the new NRESC on new opportunities like birding we encourage the Chamber of Commerce to continue to support and promote traditional outdoor sporting activities liker hunting and fishing.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<b>Sandy Birdsall</b>	conversation	1/16/2012	<p>Maybe include mention of trail maps produced last year.</p>
<b>Ken Bruland</b>	conversation	1/19/2012	<p>Main point: support development of ecotourism businesses on the Island; support extension of bike path to Donegal Bay; improve the public restrooms in the village; tie development of museum by CMU at the boat house to idea of a Great Lakes Islands nature center.</p>

**Sharon  
Hurkmans**

email

1/20/.2012

I have a question??? Was the 5 year recreation plan intended for all of the people that live on the island year around? Or was it intended just for the people that live in St. James Only? I am just asking as I picked up the survey at the community center and brought it home to fill out. By the time I got to filling the second page of the survey out I couldn't answer anymore of the questions as it seemed all one sided. I took it to the community center where I picked it up from and talked with Carol Creaser and asked her if it was meant for the whole of Beaver Island or was it meant for just the St. James residents only, and she said that she thought that it was for all of the people on Beaver Island as a whole. I told her that I couldn't answer some of the questions that it asked for as it seemed one sided to me and the one side was for St. James residents. So I finally got frustrated and threw the survey away and didn't finish filling it out. Carol said that she too had tried to fill it out and found that she couldn't answer some of the questions either as it seemed all one sided. So I am just wondering if the survey was just meant for the St. James recreation or was it meant for the island as a whole???

**Don Tritsch**

email

1/22/2012

I read the recreation plan you prepared – you have included about everything that can be acted upon within the St James Township. I do however take exception to “controlling invasive species” as the number one action item for a recreation plan. While I do not want to diminish the need to control invasive species, it in itself does little to improve recreation. Further, there is a sufficient momentum already in place to keep this action item moving.

I would also like you to include cost estimates for each action item - even if the estimates are unstudied and rough. It might show what can be done easily and quickly to improve the recreational opportunities here. Some estimate of benefit – number of users etc. would be helpful. An un-scaled Pareto chart of installation and maintenance/operational costs would be good starting point. If there is an interest in a particular item, then it can be studied further. For example, signs and a map can be easily implemented with little investment and maintenance cost.

The recreation plan needs to have a stronger focus on increasing tourism, and action items that will bring jobs to the island. A median age of 51.5 years does not reflect a healthy and sustainable economy. Who will push our wheel chairs? You do recognize tourist benefits, but when I read the plan, tourism is a spin-off benefit. I think tourism and jobs should drive the plan.

The plan needs to be coordinated with Peaine Township. We are in this together and need each other. Back to the trail signs, if we help erect signs in Peaine Township, St James gets the spinoff benefit of more tourists at the motels, restaurants and other stores. The same can be said for promotion of fishing, hunting, bird watching and ecotourism. The plan needs to be island wide. We all get the benefit of increased demand for whatever services we have to offer and increased demand for our homes when it is time to sell.

Thanks for your efforts,