

Arvon

T O W N S H I P

RECREATION PLAN | 2024-2028



JEWEL OF THE U.P.

Adopted on September 11, 2023, by the Arvon Township Board of Trustees.

This Recreation Plan was prepared by the Arvon Township Planning Commission with technical assistance from, *Northwoods Planning & Zoning Services, LLC*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Arvon Township Recreation Plan | 2024-2028 was developed by the Arvon Township Planning Commission with technical assistance provided by Jason McCarthy, from *Northwoods Planning & Zoning Services, LLC*.

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INTRODUCTION

The *Arvon Township Recreation Plan | 2024-2028*, shall serve as a road map to the future regarding recreation planning and development within the community. The plan's primary focus is to ensure that quality recreational opportunities are available for users of all ages and abilities. Recreation provision in Arvon Township is a key component of community planning, as it serves as a benchmark for how residents and visitors view their quality of life.

Recreation planning is important for a number of reasons. It helps to ensure that there are a variety of recreational activities available to meet the needs and interests of a community's residents and visitors. This can include everything from organized sports leagues and fitness classes, to parks, trails, and other outdoor recreation opportunities. It can also play a role in promoting public health and wellness, as it can encourage people to be physically active and spend time in nature. In addition, recreation planning can help to boost a community's economy, as it can attract tourists and businesses that are drawn to an area's recreational offerings. Overall, recreation planning helps to create vibrant and livable communities by providing a range of opportunities for people to engage in leisure activities and pursue their interests.

This plan is a continuation of Arvon Township's first recreation plan which covered planning efforts in the community for the years 2012-2016. The current version of the plan was also written in accordance with the [Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans](#), as administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management team. It has also been developed with the acknowledgment of [Michigan's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\)](#). Many of the goals and objectives found in this plan reflect similar intentions of the SCORP and this plan aims to align Arvon Township's recreation planning with many of the state's long-range recreation planning objectives.

The five-year Action Program, which can be found later in the document, is based on input from residents, stakeholders and elected and appointed officials. Additional input was received at an open house discussion at the Arvon Township Hall on May 3, 2023. The plan also provides ways to achieve Arvon Township's long-range outdoor recreational goals and allow eligibility to apply for financial assistance from the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#).

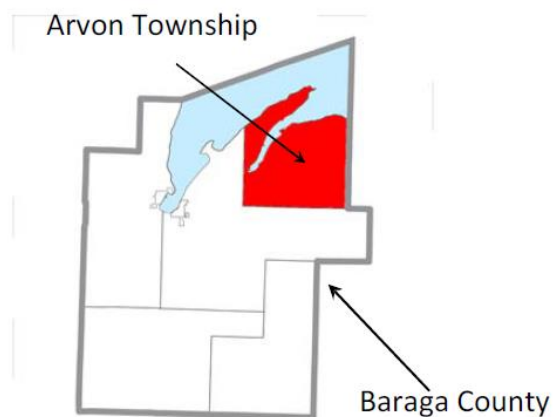
Once completed, the final draft document was distributed to surrounding municipalities, regulatory agencies, partners, and the public for a 30-day review on August 2, 2023. The plan was also available for review on the township's website at: www.arvontownship.org



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Arvon Township is a rural community situated on the banks of Lake Superior and located in the northeastern portion of Baraga County, in the Upper Peninsula. The township is home to a mix of forests, lakes, and small farms, providing a picturesque and natural setting for residents. Arvon Township includes the Abbaye Peninsula, which projects into Lake Superior to form Huron Bay and Keweenaw Bay. The Huron Bay, the only natural fjord in the State of Michigan, is long and narrow so its waters are significantly more protected than those of the open lake. Much of the shoreline, particularly around the tip of the peninsula at Point Abbaye, is rocky, although there are some stretches of sandy beach.

The community is relatively small, with a population of 496, as of the 2020 US Census. The majority of Arvon Township's population is concentrated in the two rural communities of Aura and Skanee. Aura is located at the base of the Point Abbaye peninsula on the northern side of Huron Bay. Skanee is located about 15 miles northeast of the village of L'Anse.

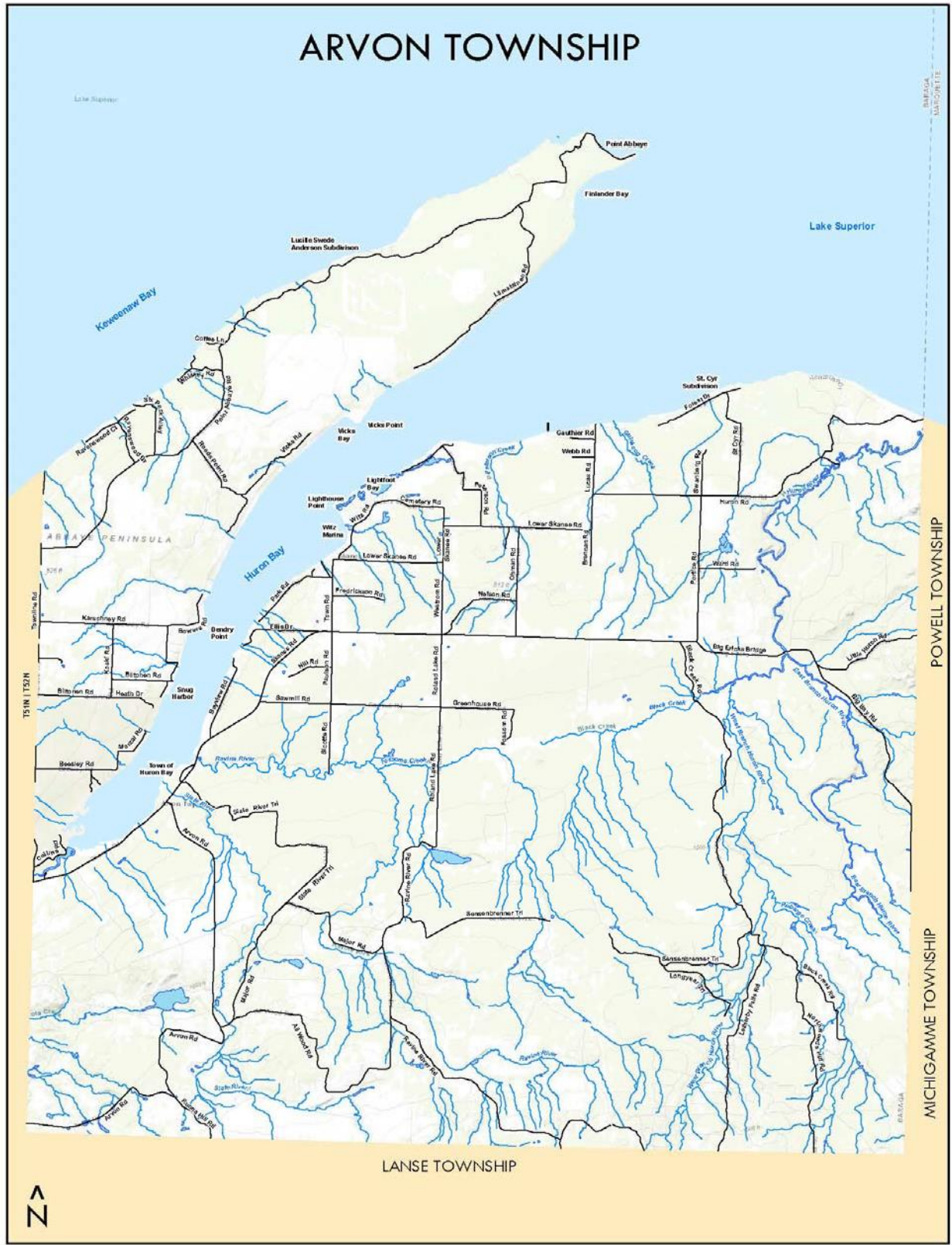


Despite its size, Arvon Township has a rich history and a strong sense of community. Many residents are actively involved in local organizations and events. The township is also home to many outdoor recreational opportunities, such as fishing, hunting, and snowmobiling.

The jurisdiction of this plan represents the desired outdoor recreation needs for residents and visitors of Arvon Township. Other municipalities within Baraga County also conduct recreation planning at some level. When possible, Arvon Township will coordinate with other governmental, educational and stakeholder's efforts to support and advance their recreational goals. The plan speaks to a broader, regional audience further along in the document.

The major transportation route in Arvon Township is Skanee Road which connects to the Village of L'Anse and to US-41. US-41 travels north to the Keweenaw Peninsula and south to the City of Marquette and other locations south and east.

Arvon Township Base Map is shown below, located in Baraga County, Michigan – Figure 1.



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

As a rural community, recreational operations, maintenance, and the proposed Action Program projects will all be administered by the Arvon Township Board of Trustees with administrative assistance from the community's Planning Commission. Project financing will come from township's general fund, potential local donations and grant opportunities. The Township Board of Trustees serve as the "Recreation Director," in the sense of budgeting, coordinating programming and facility maintenance schedules.



The Township's Recreation Plan will also be reviewed annually to assure that its goals, objectives and Action Program improvements are focused towards providing the highest and best recreational opportunities for the community. It is anticipated that this Recreation Plan will continue to be reviewed and updated every five years. The Planning Commission serves the Township Board by providing support in recreation planning, administration and implementation, as required.

Recreation Programs

The Township Board and Planning Commission are available to develop programs at township-owned parks, as necessary. It is also advisable to engage in public and private partnerships to assist in the development of well-rounded recreational programming.

Recreation Sites

Periodically, the Township Board will review facilities located at township-owned parks and make recommendations on issues and opportunities. Recommendations cover the use of the facilities, personnel and/or maintenance that may be required, the expenditure of funds on the improvement of the facilities, and types of facilities that may be needed.

Regulations

The Township Board administers rules and regulations to be implemented at township-owned parks and properties.

Funding Sources

At this time, the Township Board themselves or a consultant can assist the community with identifying possible grant sources. They may also provide input in developing and preparing grant applications. Preparation and submittal of grant applications are also the responsibility of Township Board.

The Township Board allocates general fund dollars on an annual basis for recreation projects, as needed. The Township Board has been working towards submitting a 5-year recreation plan and [Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund](#) grant applications to develop park properties within the community. Based on recent public input, recreation has become more important to local residents. As

such, township officials have placed the expansion of recreational opportunities as a priority during recent planning and budgeting exercises.

Role of Volunteers and Organizations

Two vital components of recreation provision in Arvon Township are volunteerism and stewardship. Each Action Program improvement or maintenance project at a township-owned park property aims to involve assistance from local residents, trail advocates and/or service group volunteers, as well as public and private financial assistance. This plan also aims to focus on improving and building our volunteer base.

Relationships with School Districts and Other Public Agencies Involved in Recreation

The [Arvon Township School](#) educates children from kindergarten through eighth grade students at the historic location in Skanee. Along with the annual Christmas program, there are several other productions conducted by the school that provide entertainment and culture for the community.



ARVON TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY

Recreational opportunities within a community often reflect the quality of life that is enjoyed by its residents, and allure by its visitors. When considering future land use issues and opportunities, recreation facilities and programs should be at the forefront of the discussion. Arvon Township is home to world-class, four-season recreation opportunities with its Lake Superior shoreline, rugged terrain, and miles of ATV-riding opportunities on privately owned forest land. The natural resources are part of the community fabric. Recreational planning in Arvon Township aims to develop and promote recreational opportunities that meet the needs of the township's residents, visitors and tourists — regardless of their abilities.

To that end, below is a listing of the recreational facilities maintained by Arvon Township:

Township Hall Park

Arvon Township owns approximately 15 acres at the intersection of Town Road and Park Road. While it is not a particularly large parcel, it serves the function of a Community Park. It is the site of the Township Hall which serves the community's indoor recreation needs. In addition to the seat of township government, the structure features a kitchen and is rented to the community for gatherings and township events. The upstairs provides an auditorium. A ramp provides access to the meeting rooms. The grounds immediately surrounding the township hall are park like and provide a nice informal space for small public events. On the west end of this parcel and accessed from Park Road is the townships active recreation facility. The facility includes a softball field and is also available for other activities requiring a large grassy playfield.

Arvon Township Park

This site is located west of the Township Hall Park on Park Road. It is principally used as a boating access to Huron Bay. The park also includes a basketball court, parking, picnic sites, and restrooms.

There are two skid piers which are maintained by the township. The launching of small fishing boats is possible; however, the launching of larger boats is difficult due to limited water depth. Fluctuating lake levels have contributed to this problem along with the accumulation of sand in the near shore area. Ice fishing tournaments are held here in the winter months. The dock has been improved over the years with funding provided by Michigan DNR grants.

Township Cemetery

The Skanee Cemetery occupies part of a 40-acre parcel near Lightfoot Bay. While the parcel is managed as a public cemetery, it is also an interest to tourists due the site's long history. As such, it receives a certain amount of tourist traffic and with sensitive trail improvements could contribute significantly to the community's hiking opportunities. There are also several small, pond and wetland habitats on the parcel that offer ideal wildlife viewing opportunities. Other than the cemetery proper and associated trails, the parcel does not meet accessibility guidelines.

Arvon Township Waterfront Parcels

- 34 acres of undeveloped Lake Superior frontage near the eastern township boundary. The site is near a popular site for water sports but has no formal access or development at this time. As an undeveloped site, accessibility is limited. The site is entirely forested and features a mostly rocky shoreline. There is narrow sand beach near the east edge of the parcel that is utilized by beach goers.
- An approximate 38-acre parcel that neighbors Vicks Point. The parcel currently has no road access and is surrounded by private holdings. No immediate plans to develop the parcel exist at the time

of this report.

- A 100-foot strip of property at Witz Marina right on the lake, that has not been developed or planned for development at the time of this report.

In summary, the entire township, especially with so much land enrolled in the Commercial Forest Act, is a paradise for hunting and fishing. The Huron River and surrounding area, are well known, as is the Huron Bay for excellent fishing opportunities.

ADDITIONAL AREA RECREATIONAL FACILITIES *(NOT OWNED OR MANAGED BY ARVON TOWNSHIP)*

Roland Lake

Roland Lake is a beautiful 40-acre lake 4 miles southeast of Skanee. It is spring-fed and stocked with brook trout, with a maximum depth of 22 feet. The boat launch is suitable for small to medium sized boats and accessible from a gravel road. Toilet facilities are available at the boat launch.

Pointe Abbaye

There are trails and rustic camping sites at Baraga County-managed facilities at Pointe Abbaye. The property is forested with old growth character including stands of large hemlock. The area also provides important migratory stopover habitat. Migratory birds that follow the Great Lakes shoreline, favor stopover sites on prominent shoreline features like Point Abbaye.

Witz Marina

Commercial marina and camping opportunities are also available immediately north of Skanee at Witz's Marina. Large fishing boats can be launched from this site. The nearest alternate public boat launch is located in the Village of L'Anse.

Silver River Boat Launch Site

Silver River Boat Launch located near the corner of Skanee & Townline Roads. The site features a hard-surfaced ramp. The site is signed and toilets are available along with approximately 20 parking places. The site is operated by the DNR.

Aura Town Hall & Ball Fields

This site, located along Townline Road, is maintained and operated by the Town of Aura. Annual events are held here along with summer softball league activities and the popular Aura Jamboree.

Big Eric's Bridge & Campground

This secluded campground, situated on the pristine Huron River watershed, is popular among fishermen for trout and spring/fall steelhead runs. The destination provides ease of access to area wilderness for hikers, hunters, ORV and outdoor enthusiasts. It has 21 sites for tent and small trailer use. Amenities include vault toilets and a hand pump well. It has barrier-free facilities. The campground is open from April through November.

Lightfoot Bay Nature Area

The multi-partner Lightfoot Bay Nature Area project was developed to protect unique Great Lakes coastal wetland and shoreline habitats that contribute to the overall health of Huron Bay and its diverse fishery. The nature area permanently protects much of this rare and unique coastal wetland complex, including over 6,500 feet of shoreline within Lightfoot Bay and 2,500 feet of Lake Superior barrier beach shoreline on Huron Bay. Over 70% of the project area is in nationally declining wetland habitat types, making it an important area for long-term conservation.

The Lightfoot Bay wetland, near-shore, and upland plant communities play a critical role in maintaining the ecological integrity of greater Huron Bay, providing habitat for migrating waterfowl, breeding birds, native plants, threatened and endangered species, rare fish species and other aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.

In addition to the high-quality fishery values, Lightfoot Bay also contains several other important habitats for biodiversity. Extensive cranberry bogs, fens, beaver ponds, and alder thickets make up a large part of the nature area, attracting migratory birds and waterfowl from across the region with bald eagles being a common sight. With little to no development in the surrounding area, Lightfoot Bay's night skies are among the darkest in the region and make it a perfect location for stargazing and aurora viewing.

Historical Museum

The Skanee Historical Museum is located at the intersection of Upper Skanee and Roland Lake Road in Skanee, Michigan. The museum sits directly across the road from the Zion Lutheran Church.

The Skanee Historical Museum was originally a parsonage built between 1907-1908 for the Zion Lutheran Church. The museum is a roomy, structurally sound, two-story building complete with the 'comforts of home' from the late 1800's to the mid 1900's. Every year, the Skanee Historical Society sponsors a special activity to encourage people to visit and appreciate Arvon Township's history. In the past, people have gathered at the museum to attend handmade quilt displays, pie socials, historical tours, pageants, historical re-enactments, raffles and a variety of other activities. Funds or donations received are used to help cover the cost of maintaining the museum. The museum features regular hours during the summer months.

Old Ravine River Cemetery

The Old Ravine River Cemetery is located on the Lundberg Homestead on Sicotte Road. Though not owned by the township, the history of this location is known and treasured by local residents. The Old Skanee Ravine River Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Arvon Township. In 1903, the Lundeborg's gave an additional acre for the expansion of this cemetery site. It has a deed which states that it is for the future use of the Lundberg's descendants, as well as those of several other original homesteaders.

Huron River

The mouth of the Huron River is a very popular camping and fishing site and receives a great deal of use. However, this site is completely unmanaged with no facilities. Although not located within the township, access is provided through Arvon Township.



Arvon Township's Recreation Inventory Map – Figure 2.



DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

In this section, Arvon Township's planning method is discussed. This method is intended to assist with the assessment of the township's park, recreation and open-space requirements.

Planning Method

Arvon Township will utilize the "system" planning method. This planning method will utilize the township's metrics, priorities, needs, level of service and community-wide issues and opportunities to guide recreational planning efforts. As planning efforts and projects are implemented, the system can be re-evaluated to measure success and guide future planning goals.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

In this section, we detail the approach used to incorporate public input into the recreation planning process. Residents' opinions on recreation and open-space priorities is a key factor in this plan's development.

Community Survey

A community recreation survey was conducted during the spring of 2023. The survey was advertised and was mailed to approximately 500 Arvon Township community members. An online version of the survey was also made available. The results of the survey have been used in the drafting of this plan's Goals and Objectives and Action Program. A summary of the survey results can be found in the Appendix.

Early Public Input

Because our residents' opinions on recreation and open-space priorities are paramount in this plan's development, a Community Input Session was held at the Arvon Township Hall on May 3, 2023 from 6 – 8 PM. This session offered a chance for attendees to share their outdoor recreation ideas, as the township prepared to their updated DNR 5-year Recreation Plan. Thirty-three (33) attendees were present to offer their input. The comments from those in attendance are detailed within the meeting minutes and have been utilized in the development of the Goals & Objectives, the Action Plan, and in the Appendix.





30-day Review Period

The draft of the updated Recreation Plan was made available for review on August 2, 2023. Notice was posted in the local newspaper and on the township website. Copies of the draft plan were placed for review at the Arvon Township Hall and on the township's website at: www.arvontownship.org. Instructions for providing additional comments on the plan were included in the public notice placed in the local newspaper and on the community's website.

Public Hearing & Resolution of Adoption

Advance notice for the proposed adoption Public Hearing was also provided on the Arvon Township website and in an advertisement that was placed in the local newspaper on Wednesday, August 2, 2023. The Planning Commission public hearing occurred on Thursday, September 7, 2023 and was adopted by resolution at the meeting. A copy of the Public Hearing Notice, Adoption Resolution, and official meeting minutes will be provided, as required prior to DNR approval. In addition the Township Board also adopted a resolution of concurrence on Monday, September 11, 2023.



Arvon Township Park

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Michigan *State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)* aided in developing Arvon Township's recreational goals and objectives. The goals and objectives from the SCORP have been adapted to fit our community's recreational needs. Public input from our residents also provided helpful engagement by way of our Public Input Session. Many of the below goals and objectives are shared by our surrounding municipal neighbors. There are also provisions to collaborate with those entities if and when those opportunities should arise.

Goal #1 – Foster stewardship and conservation with businesses, organizations, and individuals in protecting Arvon Township's natural and cultural resources.

Objectives:

- Encourage efforts directed at improving both the visual and physical characteristics of all recreational opportunities in Arvon Township.
- Support and promote initiatives to improve and/or maintain the quality of recreational opportunities in Arvon Township.
- Promote the preservation and expansion of recreational opportunities and other recreational-oriented business opportunities for recreation and tourism.
- Encourage developers to retain open space and preserve trail rights-of-way to further enhance Arvon Township's non-motorized and motorized transportation network.
- Collaborate with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for financial assistance in developing additional recreational opportunities in Arvon Township.

Goal #2 – Improve collaboration with recreation stakeholders to meet the outdoor needs of Township residents and visitors

Objectives:

- Collaborate with surrounding municipalities, trail networks, non-profit organizations and other recreation program providers for the purpose of expanding recreational opportunities in the area.
- Develop a regional network of trails by collaborating with other municipalities, trail organizations, and recreation providers.
- Participate in regional recreational planning to ensure multi-jurisdictional trail connectivity.
- Collaborate with Baraga County regarding mutual planning issues and opportunities.

Goal #3 – Raise the awareness of residents and visitors on the variety of outdoor recreational opportunities available in Arvon Township.

Objectives:

- Coordinate regional recreational planning; build environments and programming activities that identify opportunities, fill deficiencies, and avoid duplication of services and efforts so as to make optimal use of financial and other resources.
- Encourage cooperation and coordination between surrounding municipalities, school districts, recreational service providers, and developers with regard to recreational opportunities.

Goal #4 – Improve recreation accessibility for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.

Objectives:

- Promote bicycling, walking, and other activities that provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.
- Continue to provide Americans with Disability Act (ADA) access, Universal Design features, and multisensory experiences to enhance access and attract all types of recreational users.
- Develop recreational tourism opportunities such as interpretive cultural and/or historical signage, farmer's markets, and the like.
- Consider holding additional seasonal, semi-annual, or annual community events at Township Parks.

Goal #5 – Provide quality outdoor recreational experiences in balance with township resource management capabilities.

Objectives:

- Purchase property to set aside, in perpetuity, for recreational use, where and when feasible.
- Identify, acquire and develop trail easements that connect residential, commercial, and recreational nodes.

Goal #6 – Enhance the health of Arvon Township residents and visitors by providing diverse outdoor recreational opportunities.

Objectives:

- Identify and develop recreational opportunities that engage all ages and abilities.
- Consider both passive and active recreational opportunities.
- Consider holding additional seasonal, semi-annual, or annual community events at Township Parks.

Goal #7 – Supplement economic opportunity in the community by providing high-quality recreational opportunities and programs.

Objectives:

- Where and when feasible, acquire local, state, federal and private funding to develop a myriad of recreational opportunities that will enhance additional economic development opportunities in the area.
- Take advantage of opportunities to expand and develop trailheads, public access sites, and other facilities which further encourage hiking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hunting, and other recreational uses of the natural assets in Arvon Township.
- Monitor recreation trends, and incorporate opportunities that may draw new residents and visitors.
- Diversify recreation opportunities, to provide notable experiences and generate new revenue for Arvon Township.

ACTION PROGRAM

In this section, we have described specific projects that have been identified by residents and stakeholders. They are intended to meet our stated goals and objectives over the course of the next five years. Ultimately, the Township Board will have the ultimate discretion on budgeting and approval of the proposed projects.

2024

Proposed Arvon Township Park Improvements & Enhancements

The following park improvements and enhancements are being proposed in order to hold seasonal community events at the park. For example, during the winter, an event for walking across the frozen bay could be held, along with a bon fire at the park. In spring (June) a lupine festival with local vendors (like a farmer's market) and nature experts giving talks could be conducted. During the summer, a fishing derby could be held. In fall, more fishing and nature talks by experts on fall activities.

Arvon Township Park Improvements & Enhancements Phase One:

- Improve the pavilion – Refinish the tables, add electrical outlets, create a pathway from the parking area that features hand rails and ADA accessibility.
- Install fire pits.
- Install additional grills (there are currently two).
- Improve restroom facilities (there is currently one pit vault toilet near the boat ramp).
- Install running water and a drinking fountain by utilizing the existing well that currently has a hand pump.
- Install additional trash and recycling receptacles made out of recycled plastic.
- Improve access to the water for swimming/rock hunting.
- Create nature trail on Town Hall Park.

2025

Arvon Township Park Improvements & Enhancements Phase Two

- Install a universally-designed, modern play structure.
- Add corn hole games.
- Update the basketball court for multi-purpose (pickleball)
- Install a community garden space.
- Continue improvements to beach.

Kayak Launch at Township-owned Property Near Witz Marina

- Provide vehicle and pedestrian access to waterfront.
- Install signage to denote kayak launch.
- Consider the addition of kayak lockers and/or kayak storage racks.
- Provide improved area for kayak launching.

2026

Arvon Township Park Boat Launch Improvements

- Extend the existing dock in order to accommodate larger boats.
- Install improved bumpers for boat docking.
- Develop an ADA accessible fishing pier.
- Develop a fish-cleaning station.
- Improve lighting by adding full cut-off, downcast light fixtures.
- Consider improved access to dock boats on the outside of the dock when waiting to come in.

2027

Improve Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Access

- Work with Baraga Trail Authority to connect with current trails.
- Explore the possibility of creating a bike path on Pointe Abbaye Road to get to the county park on Pointe Abbaye.

Develop/Improve Hiking/Non-Motorized Trails

- Improve access/trailhead on the trail leading to Mt Arvon.
- Install directional signage and/or map kiosk to Mt Arvon.
- Install recycled plastic benches on popular trails.
- Consider picnic shelter on popular trails.
- Install interpretive nature signage for popular trails.

2028

Develop 30+ Acre Parcel Overlooking Huron Islands for Camping and Dark Sky Park

- Develop vehicle access and parking.
- Develop a master plan for the park to determine an appropriate number of rustic camp sites.
- Install fire rings.
- Install recycled plastic picnic tables, trash receptacles.
- Install interpretive signage for natural features (Huron Islands, type of forest, wildlife, night viewing).

Potential Funding Sources

Creative funding options for the above-mentioned projects may come from several sources including but not limited to: local matching funds, the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF) Development and Acquisition Grant program, the Recreation Passport Grant program, private donations, and in-kind labor or workforce donations.

Note: The Planning Commission also recommends that the Township Board consider the development of a Recreation Committee. During the community survey process, numerous people expressed their desire to serve on such a committee. A Recreation Committee could assist both the Planning Commission and the Township Board with recreation planning, project coordination, grant writing, event planning, and park maintenance.

Also, and only if supported by our residents and the Township Board, a small recreation millage could be considered in the future, in order to provide matching funds for DNR grants and maintenance funding for new and existing recreational facilities.

APPENDIX - A

ARVON TOWNSHIP RECREATION SURVEY | 2023 Summary of Survey Responses and Comments May 3, 2023

The Recreation Survey was used to collect input from citizens in March and April 2023. Below is a summary of responses, including the text comments for additional opportunities and improvements needed.

A total of 104 surveys were completed.

Paper/Mailed: 82 (A total of 500 were mailed out. This is a 16% return rate.)

On-Line Survey Monkey: 22

Total responses: 104

Question 1: Do you or your family use recreational facilities in Arvon Township?

Yes: 84 No: 18

Question 2: What time of year do you or your family recreate in Arvon Township?

All Seasons: 72

Spring: 88

Summer: 96

Fall: 92

Winter: 74

Question 3: Please provide the age of the person filling out this survey.

18 years and under: None

19-29: 6

30-39: 7

40-49: 4

50 and over: 82

No answer: 3

Question 4: Roughly how many hours as week do you spend recreating?

Answers varied greatly. Some said “none”. Several listed a range and others responded “varies”. Of those who submitted a specific number or a range, the **average was 12** hours a week.

Question 5: Does Arvon Township have enough recreational facilities for our residents and visitors? If no, what would you like added?

Yes: 49

No: 46

Additional Facilities with 1+ Response

Playground - equipment at park	6
Trail - Biking	6
Pickleball/Tennis Courts	5
Trails - Hiking	5
Beach - Public	4
Trails - X Country Ski	4
Beach - At park	4
Park - Improve	3
Trails - Snowshoeing	3
Boat launch - Deeper/better	2
Camping	2
Dock - Canoe/Kayak on Lk Superior	2
Splash pad	2
Trails - ATV/ORV	2
Trails - Walking	2

Additional Facilities with 1 response

ATV access to Pt Abbaye for handicapped
Ballfields - Continue Porta Potty
Ballfields - Improve
Ballfields - Seating/benches
Boat launch - Additional one
Camping - Free for Vets at Big Ericks
Cemetery - More plots
Dark Sky Park
Dock - Fishing dock at park
Family friendly games
Ice Skating Rink
More access to lake
Park - Covered/Screened building
Park - Pavilion - More user friendly
Parks - More
Picnic areas with fire pits
Playground - at ballfield
Playground - equipment
Porta Potties
Roads - Improve
Summer activities
Things to encourage visitors
Trail - Bike to Pt Abbaye
Trails - Mountain biking
Trails - Opt in to ATV trail system
Trails - Snowmobile
Utilize Huron Bay more
Waterfront Parcel - Near marina
Waterfront parcels - Access only by water
Waterfront parcels - Reeds Pt beach & picnic. Vehicle and ATV access

Question 6: Are Arvon Township's recreational facilities that you have used adequately maintained? If no, please list which facilities should have improved maintenance and in what areas.

Yes: 70

No: 11

Maintenance Opportunities with 1+ Response

Boat Launch - Make deeper/longer	3
Township Hall maintenance	3
Park - Maintenance/Mowing/Weed whacking	2

Maintenance Opportunities with 1 Response

Aura camp - Water & Restrooms needed
Ballfield
Big Ericks - Needs improvement/trash cans
Boat Launch - Lights
Cemetery - Take down dangerous trees
Park - Handrail to pavilion
Park - Plant more trees
Park - Shoreline for Beach
Park - Update
Playground
Pt Abbaye
Pt Abbaye - Boat launch & picnic on east side
Restrooms - Ballfield
Restrooms - Better maintenance
Restrooms - Big Ericks
Restrooms - Boat launch better/cleaner
Restrooms - Mouth of Huron
Restrooms - Second Sand Beach
Road - Paved Skanee Rd is terrible
Road - to Pt Abbaye
Roads - Are terrible. Need attention
Roads - Improve to park & marina
Taxes lowered

Question 7: Which of these Arvon Township recreational opportunities/facilities would you like to see improved?

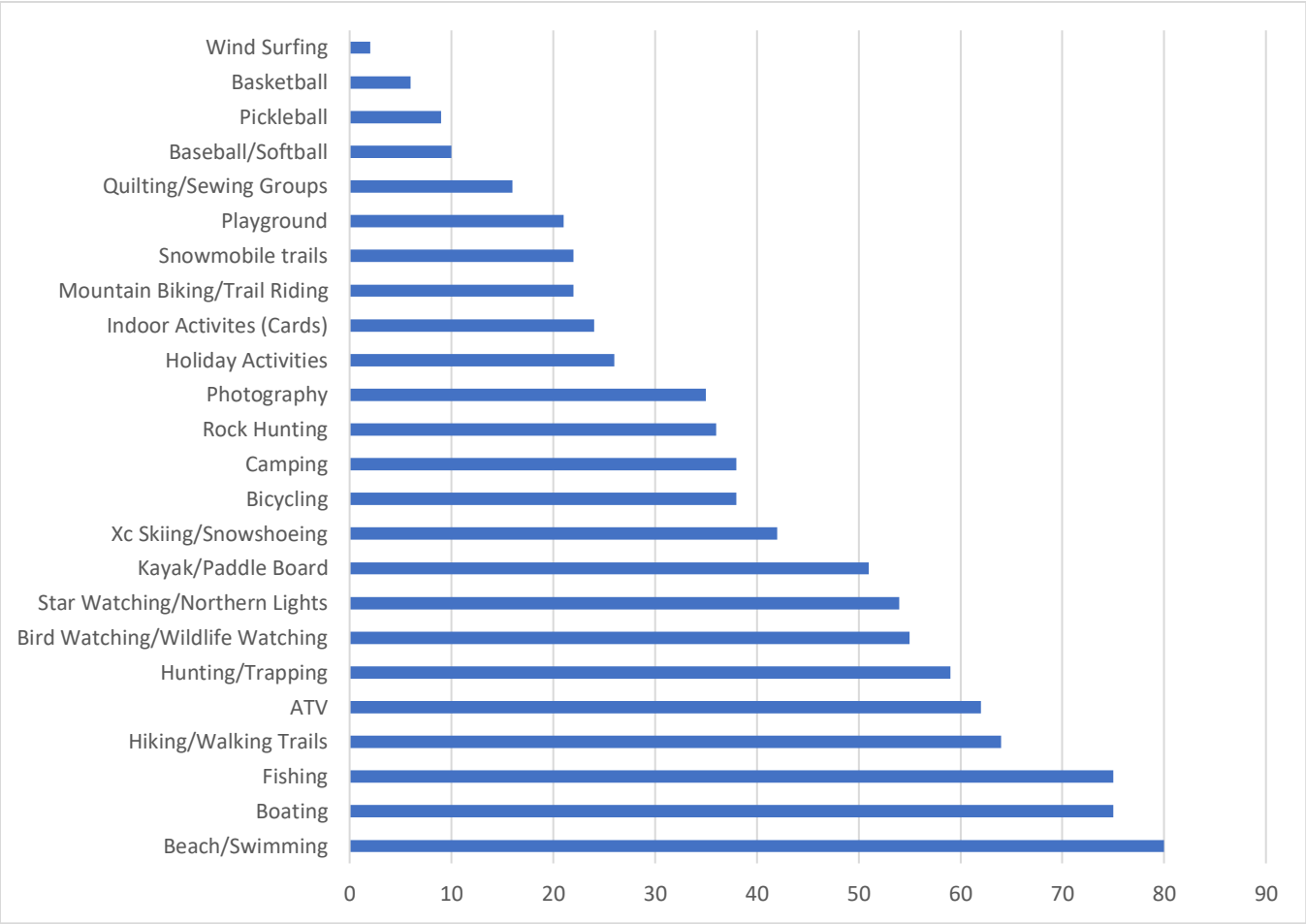
Hall and Ball Park: 44

Park with Boat Launch: 63

Undeveloped Waterfront Parcels: 44

Cemetery: 25

Question 8: What activities do you and your family members participate in for recreation?



Question 9: Are there additional recreational opportunities you would like to have developed in Arvon Township? Be creative!

Additional Resources with 1+ Response

Trails - Marked ORV	7
Trails - XC Ski/Hill	5
Pickleball court	4
Stop promoting wild areas (Pt Abbaye, mouth of Huron)	4
Beach/Swimming at Park	3
Boat Launch - Docking space	3
Trails - Biking	3
Trails - Hiking	3
Camping	2
Dark Sky Park	2
Dog Park - Fenced	2
None - Keep it like it is	2
Playground - slide, sandbox, swings	2
Shooting Range	2
Splash pad	2
Trails - Snowmobile	2
Trails - Snowshoeing	2
Undeveloped Waterfronts - Picnic/Camping	2

Additional Resources with 1 Response

Aura Hall
Ballfields - Improve, expand parking, view from cars
Better Signage
Camping - Promote free at State parks
Canoe/Kayak Race
Cemetery - Old Skanee move ownership to twp
Chapel - Praise & Prayer
Community - Activities/games
Community - BBQs
Community - Building/Foster Community
Community - Campfires
Community - Easter egg hunt
Community - Summer events
Community - Theatre performances
Dark Sky Park on Pt Abbaye

Disc Golf at Park
Ensure rural character maintained
Fishing - Contest
Fishing - Lessons
Golf - Driving/Putting
Guide services - Backroads
Guide services - Boat/Pontoon on Huron Bay
Guide services - Fishing
Guide services - to Huron Islands
Horseshoes
Ice Skating Rink - Outdoor
Kayak launch
Lighting - after hours
Lupine Festival
Mt Arvon ziplines
Music at park
Orienteering Competition
Outdoor Survival
Park
Park - Fish Cleaning Station
Park - Improve pavilion
Picnic areas with firepits
Pt Abbaye - Boat launch & restroom on east side
Rest areas at waterfalls
Scenic lookouts
Shelter with views
Signs & law enforcement to stop ATVs from racing on Beesley Rd
Tai Chi Class
Town Hall - Use it for rental, art shows, bake sales
Trails - Biking to Pt Abbaye
Trails - Expand Pinery XC Ski to Arvon
Trails - to Mt Arvon, maintenance of
Undeveloped Parcels - Easements/tables
Undeveloped Waterfronts - Picnic/Camping
Veteran - No fees for
Winter Activities

Baraga County has conservation officer vacancy

Special from the Michigan DNR

To help fill vacancies for essential conservation officer roles in 14 counties, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is hiring licensed law enforcement officers for an accelerated conservation officer training program.

“The accelerated hiring process will allow licensed officers who have received general criminal training to bypass the traditional Conservation Officer Recruit School Academy and immediately begin their natural resources law enforcement training,” said Capt. Jen Wolf, DNR Law Enforcement Division. “This helps us bring in skilled, motivated officers with diverse law enforcement experience to quickly fill existing vacancies.”

Counties with vacancies include: Baraga, Cass, Chippewa, Eaton, Huron,

Ingham, Kalamazoo, Lapeer, Mackinac, Midland, Ontonagon, Oscoda, Shiawassee and Tuscola.

Qualified applicants must be at least 21 years of age and meet one of the following requirements:

- Hold a current Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards license.
- Be a graduating student from a law enforcement academy and eligible for immediate licensure upon employment.
- Be a licensed law enforcement officer in another state and meet MCOLES requirements.

Apply by May 10. Successful candidates will meet DNR hiring requirements, including being a State of Michigan resident, by the time training ends.

Stationed in nearly every county of the state, DNR conservation officers are fully licensed law enforcement officers who

enforce laws and regulations related to fish and wildlife, state parks, trails and forests, and outdoor recreation activities such as off-road vehicle use, snowmobiling and boating. They also often serve as first responders during natural disasters and life-threatening situations.

The application process includes the opportunity for candidates to give preference for which county they prefer to patrol.

Previous fishing and hunting experience and a college education are not required to become a conservation officer.

“This is a lifelong career, and we want to see applicants succeed,” Wolf said. “Our instructors are the best at what they do, and we will support each applicant to ensure they have what they need to be successful.”

Twelve conservation officers have com-

pleted the DNR’s accelerated training program since 2021.

Training will include laws and rules specific to fish and game, species identification, and enforcement and safe operation of boats, off-road vehicles and snowmobiles.

Successful candidates will be hired as probationary conservation officers and immediately receive a DNR patrol vehicle and firearms. These PCOs will be able to return home at the end of each day, with the exception of training at locations that require travel. The DNR will provide lodging accommodations for PCOs who meet travel status requirements.

As State of Michigan employees, PCOs will receive biweekly paychecks and have the opportunity to earn health and retirement benefits.

Outdoors

Fishing takes another hit

by John Raffel

It was fun while it lasted.

Area fishermen were able to take advantage of seasonable weather last week prior to Monday’s snowstorm, which was expected to slow things down considerably for awhile.

“Up until Monday, with the weather changing around, with unseasonably warm temperatures, fishing on the bay was phenomenal,” Jim Wilson, of Wilkinsons Hardware, said. “There were good

catches of coho and salmon. The rivers were overflowing so the river fishing was pretty much a wash. The whitefish, people jigging for them had really good success, with limits of catches, good catches.

“But Mother Nature has thrown a curveball at us. We’re back to snow cover and cold. The weather will straighten out again. But it will be back again.”

Ashley Engelhardt of Indian Country Sports agreed.

“The rivers have been slow, still. They’ve been

really high because the water level has been high,” Engelhardt said. “There’s been a few steelhead caught in the river. It will get better in the next couple of weeks. They have been doing well in the bay, mostly with coho. I’ve heard of a few nice browns and steelhead caught out there trolling as well. Most of the guys are in the top 10 to 15 feet of the water column.

“Spoons and crankbaits, orange has been the hottest color from what I’ve been hearing. They’ve been doing well with the

whitefish.”

The DNR issued this statement on Keweenaw and Huron bays: “All ice has been cleared from Lake Superior in Keweenaw Bay and nearly all ice has left Huron Bay. Anglers were out sporadically with some luck fishing for whitefish in the mornings. All fish were caught near bottom however numbers were low. With temperatures rising and snow melting, anglers expect fish to be near river mouths and fishing to continue to pick up as the weather moves fully into spring.”

UP bear population continues to grow

by John Raffel

Cody Norton was a large carnivore specialist with the Michigan DNR based in the Upper Peninsula in Marquette.

His title is now bear, furbearer species and small game (not including birds) specialist. His previous job dealt with bears, wolves and cougars.

“It’s different species I’m working with,” he said adding the bear population “is good. It’s been positive around the state. We’ve been seeing an increasing bear population since 2012 in the UP. Our estimates are the UP population has increased 25 percent since 2012. It’s happening since we’ve reduce license quotas by 30 percent across the state since 2012 due to concerns about the bear population. It’s kind of by design.”

On cougars, Norton reported since 2022 there were 14 confirmed sightings. But so far this year, there’s been one.

The DNR has been keeping track of any verified cougar sightings since 2018.

“We’re now up to 93 confirmed sightings,” Norton said. “All but one of those were in the Upper Peninsula. We’ve certainly got better in documenting when they show up. People are getting them on their trail cameras. When one does show up, it’s getting documented several times.

“We still don’t have any evidence of reproduction or breeding. We’ve never confirmed a female in the state. We’ve had a couple of poached carcasses.”

Norton has also worked with wolves in the past. He recalls the winter of 2021-22 when there was a minimum population of 631 wolves.

“If you look at that all the way back to 2010, our estimates have shown some uncertainty with that. You can be 95 percent confident the true number is between certain numbers. Over the past 12 to 13 years, the population has appeared to remain stable. Leading up to 2010 we saw growth.”

KB sportsman remains avid hunter

by John Raffel

Bill Roth, of Keweenaw Bay, was a successful deer hunter last fall, and it’s no secret he counts the days to Nov. 15, albeit he remains a fan of just about every type of outdoor activity.

He’s not planning on spring hunting or fishing because of not having enough time.

“I drop everything for rifle season,” Roth said. “There isn’t anything better. I drop everything on Nov. 14th. I work hard all summer and all winter if I can. Come Nov. 14, that’s it. I drop everything and go hunting.”

Roth shot a 6-point buck last deer season.

Roth bagged a 6-pointer on Dec.

20 with a compound bow. He said he had a streak of shooting an 11-pointer three years in a row 1991-93, in Baraga County. But there’s very few 11-pointers around, he said.

Roth shot his 2022 buck in his back yard.

“I’ve been watching it almost two years now,” he said. “I’ve been watching about three of them.”

Roth bagged the buck from 50 yards.

It was the first buck he shot all season.

“It’s been terrible,” he said. “I’ve hunted since I was 14 and I’m 61 right now. This has been the worse year I’ve ever had for deer hunting.”

It’s why Roth is doubtful he’ll ever

shoot another 11-pointer.

“It pretty much has to be on private land, otherwise, it gets harvested,” he said. “You could just let it go four to five years and then you would see a nice rack.

“But then you have problems with predators, and there’s the automobile too.”

But there’s other factors which keep the population down, Roth said.

“It all adds up,” he said. “It’s gotten sad.”

To be a successful hunter, it doesn’t hurt to do your homework, he said.

“You find out where they are bedding and feeding and it falls together naturally,” Roth said.

UP Whitetails keeping busy

by John Raffel

Jake Ostermeyer is among the area sportsmen getting ready for spring hunting activities.

But Ostermeyer’s Baraga County chapter of UP Whitetails is getting ready for its annual feed program.

“Members can get 50 percent off and don’t have to pay for any shipping,” he said. “If we have leftovers, everyone can buy it at our cost which will be a big deal.”

It will be on May 6 from 10 a.m. to noon at Nick Lindemann’s home in Baraga. There will be

clover, corn soybeans and other options for people.

Whitetails meetings are still the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Ottawa Sportsmen club, and the public is invited to attend.

Turkey hunting starts this Saturday, April 22.

“I took a ride Thursday night and there’s turkey’s everywhere and deer everywhere,” Ostermeyer

said. “It should be a good turkey season.”

In terms of winter survival, Ostermeyer believes it was a good year for wildlife.

“If you drive around Pelkie or Alston, the amount of young deer everywhere is pretty awesome,” Ostermeyer said. “I think it’s the same for turkeys. There’s a good population.”



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WANTED: YOUR RECREATION IDEAS!

This is a chance to bring your recreation ideas into ACTION, as Arvon Township prepares an update of the community's Michigan DNR 5- Year Recreation Plan and discusses potential grant opportunities.

Please join us for a **Community Input Session** on **Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 6 p.m.** at the **Arvon Township Hall, Town Rd, Skanee, MI 49962,**

Bring your friends and family!

ATTENTION
Community Organizations

Advertise your group’s Holiday Sale, Bazaar, Concert or Bake Sale in the **L’Anse Sentinel**
Call 906-524-6194 or email us at sentinel1886@gmail.com

APPENDIX C

Arvon Township Planning Commission Public Input Session Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Call to Order

Roll Call

Nancy Strohschein (Chair)

Linnea Barron (Secretary)

Joe Bollech (Board of Review)

Bob Janda (Board Rep)

Robert Lindert (Vice Chair)

Jay Loman (Board of Review Chair)

Donna Preston

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions/Guests: Jason McCarthy, Consultant from Northwood Planning & Zoning

Approval of Agenda:

Approval of minutes of April 13, 2023 work session:

Agenda:

I. Recreation Plan

- A. Overview and history of Arvon Township Recreation Plan
- B. Summary of Recreation Plan survey results
- C. Recreation Committee volunteers
- D. Public input on recreation opportunities, opinions and priorities
- E. Next steps

II. Next meetings

- A. Thursday, May 18 6:00 PM: Planning Commission work session to review public input on Recreation Plan
- B. Thursday, June 8 6:00 PM: Planning Commission work session to review Zoning Ordinance

Adjourn

APPENDIX D

Arvon Township Planning Commission Public Input Session

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Nancy Strohschein, Chairperson; Linnea Barron, Secretary; Joe Bollech, Board of Review Representative; Bob Janda, Township Board Representative; Robert Lindert, Vice Chairperson; Jay Loman, Board of Review Chair; Donna Preston, Trustee.

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited.

Introductions/Guests: There were thirty-three guests present including Jason McCarthy, Consultant from Northwood Planning & Zoning and the Planning Commission members. The Planning Commission members introduced themselves, followed by introductions of all those present for this meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Bob made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Jay. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes of April 13, 2023, work session: Joe made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Robert. Motion carried.

Agenda:

I. Recreation Plan.

A. Linnea presented a brief history of the recreation plan for Arvon Township. Recreation plans are to be updated every five years, and the timeframe of our current recreation plan was from 2011 to 2016. Our recreation plan is long overdue.

B. Jason McCarthy, consultant, addressed the Recreation Plan process and the importance of the survey and this community input session in identifying recreation wants/needs and ideas the public would benefit from. This meeting is mandatory in the process of creating a recreation plan and the recreation plan is mandated by the state of Michigan for each township and necessary for grant applications. Most grants are a state match (25% from township, 75% from state). Applications for grants open on February 1, 2024. The survey will assist in achieving the goals/objectives and the number of projects to pursue in the next five years. The next step in this process is a meeting to utilize the comments from this community input session, scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 6 p.m. at the town hall, to select projects to consider for the Action Plan. A 30-day review period follows with copies of the draft plan placed for review at the Arvon Township Hall and on the township's website. A Public Hearing will be set up in June and Resolution of Adoption by the Township Board tentatively by August/September.

C. Nancy presented the results of the Recreation Survey which ran from mid-March through April 2023. The survey utilized paper surveys mailed out (500) and an on-line Survey Monkey with a total of 104 surveys completed (82 paper and 22 on-line surveys), a 16% return rate. The mailed surveys went to every resident/property owner in Arvon Township. The survey consisted of nine questions and Nancy presented each question and the results revealed and discussed.

There were some surprises in the results as in question 3 requesting the age of whoever was filling out the survey, the result for age 50 and over, was 82. Question 5 showed interest in improving the township park (beach, playground equipment, tennis/pickle ball courts, dock improvement and pavilion). Questions 6/7 concerned maintenance and/or improvement of recreational facilities listed the boat launch at the park, township hall, cemetery and the undeveloped waterfront parcels were of importance. Question 8 identified activities the public participates in and beach/swimming, hiking trails, ATV/snowmobile trails, fishing/boating, kayak/paddle board topped the list. Question 9 requested recreational opportunities to be developed included marked ORV, trails including hiking/cross-country skiing, beach/swimming, boat launch at park, undeveloped waterfronts, and many more.

Comments from guests:

Clarification made of recreational facilities are those that the township owns that we can consider in this plan.

Jay Fish, Township Supervisor, stated that the township hall is a historical building and maintenance includes bids for new siding and windows. The Township has Covid monies that will be used for a new fence at the ballfield with the work by ball team members.

Another guest asked who are we doing this for, residents or visitors? The discussion that followed was really for both.

Joe Bollech commented about improving the swimming area at the park and possible lighting be added.

Karen Groesbeck suggested the beauty of flowers in a formal garden, and how a past garden tour in Arvon Township was a success. The discussion went on to a possible community garden (vegetable/flower).

A big item on the survey was more marked ATV trails. This requires validation process for motor and nonmotor recreation. Lyle Olsen from Aura, a member of the Baraga County Trail Authority (BCTA), provided information that the easements for trail 14 from Lyme and the Conservancy are done with permanent easement by the DNR. This trail requires licensing, and stickers to access certain trails. Arvon Township is not yet connected to trail 14 with the concern that this would require Skanee Road to be part of that system, which was felt to be too dangerous. The trail systems need enforcement and maintenance.

There were many suggestions for the township park. A swimming beach, horseshoe pits (which are there, just need repair), fish cleaning station, railing down to the pavilion, cornhole game, kayak launch, longer boat launch/dock, handicapped fishing access, improved pavilion, basketball court, playground equipment.

There is interest in the property by Witz Marina for swimming and a kayak launch.

Also on the survey was the question requesting community members to be on a recreation committee. Jason explained that this committee would be appointed by the Township Board and should have a Planning Commission member on the committee. This committee would review annual projects for grants and serve in advisory status. On the survey we had fifteen individuals interested in serving in this capacity.

There were various discussions resuming with good input from the community when adjourned.

II. Next meeting time is 6 p.m. at the town hall on Thursday, May 18, 2023, to review the input from this meeting and form an Action Plan for the Recreation Plan.

The meeting was adjourned by Nancy Strohschein at 7:40 p.m. Coffee provided and Ivy Huttema baked cookies enjoyed by all.

Submitted by Linnea Barron, Secretary

524-6711 or 524-6922

From the Sassy Seniors: Join us for fun and exercise focused on stretching and balance and coffee... We meet on Monday,

Crafts and Companionship: Have you ever started a craft project at home and lost interest because it is no fun crafting alone? Baragaland is keeping doors open on Tuesday, Aug. 8 and Aug. 22 from 4-7 p.m. to finish or start a new craft project and of course companionship. Do you want to try something new? Liz will be set up with "Pour Painting." If you are a crafter of any kind, we would love for you to share your talents/ideas with us. All are welcome. Transportation available. Call the senior center for more information.

Baragaland Senior Citizens offer rides to out-of-town medical appointments (Houghton/Hancock, Iron Mountain, Marquette) for senior citizens and disabled residents of Baraga County. Give us a call at the senior center for information about our Non-Emergency Medical Transportation program.

Thank you to all clients for donating to our in-home service programs.



ATTENTION KBIC MEMBERS

The following Committees have vacant seats:

Pow-wow Committee - (3) seats
(must pass a background check)

Housing Grievance Committee - (2) seats

Deadline is Friday, August 11, 2023 at noon.
Please submit an application to Patrick Racette
(located in the Tribal Center), or mail to:

Doreen G. Blaker, President
16429 Beartown Rd.
Baraga, MI 49908

Arvon Township Planning Commission seeks input

The Arvon Township Planning Commission is updating the township's Recreation Plan, which will be used to undertake and fund projects over the next five years.

The plan is being written using guidelines from the State of Michigan so the commission can apply for state recreation grants from 2024 through 2027. The process has been underway for six months, and the Planning Commission anticipates completion of the Recreation Plan by Fall 2023.

Currently, the commission is seeking input from residents, property owners,

visitors, and community members for improving current areas of recreation and input on possible new opportunities.

A paper survey was mailed out to all Arvon Township residents, and others, the end of March requesting opinions on the status of current recreational opportunities in Arvon Township and suggestions for improving current areas. The survey also asked respondents to suggest new or additional opportunities that should be considered.

As the Planning Commission is seeking input from anyone who

uses Arvon Township for recreation, the survey is also available on-line and can be accessed on the township's website [Arvon Township.org](http://ArvonTownship.org). Surveys will be collected and tabulated until early May, 2023.

A public input session will be held on the subject Wednesday, May 3 at 6 p.m. at the Arvon Township Hall on Town Road in Skanee. At this session, the commission will present the goals of the Recreation Plan and a summary of the survey responses.

The evening will

encourage input and dialogue from attendees on the most important items to pursue.

"For example, the surveys so far show great interest in developing a public beach in the township, possibly at the park where the boat launch is," noted Nancy Strohschein, Chair, Arvon Township Planning Commission.

After the Public Hearing, the Planning Commission will then create a list of five or more most desired improvements

and put them into the 5-year plan.

In the Spring of 2024, Arvon Township can then apply for grants to put plans into action, with some of the projects possibly funded by Arvon Township this summer.

Those interested are encouraged to complete the survey with ideas and suggestions for the Recreation Plan and/or attend the public input session on May 3.

"We are very interested in hearing from a wide variety of citizens, whether

you live in the township or not," stated Strohschein. "We encourage families to submit multiple surveys that represent different members of a household. We encourage visitors and those who may live in the township only a few weeks a year to also have input."

Questions can be directed to the Planning Commission Chairperson, Nancy Strohschein, via email at wnstrohschein@comcast.net or any member of the Arvon Township Planning Commission.

Ostermeyer receives CFP certification

by John Raffel

Jacob Ostermeyer, a financial advisor of the financial services firm Edward Jones in L'Anse, told the *Sentinel* he has received the certified financial planner (TM) or CFP certification, granted by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP board).

Ostermeyer said becoming a CFP professional expands a financial advisor's knowledge base in the following areas:

- Financial management.
- Tax sensitive investment strategies.
- Retirement savings.
- Insurance planning.
- Education planning.
- Estate considerations.

He added that in addition to the education and examination components of certification Ostermeyer also has committed to abiding by the CFP Board's Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct.

Edward Jones is a leading financial services firm in the U.S. and through its affiliate in Canada. The firm's nearly 19,000 financial advisors serve more

than 8 million clients with a total of \$1.6 trillion in client assets under care at the end of 2022;

Edward Jones purpose is to partner to a positive impact to improve the lives of its clients and colleagues and better the communities and society.

The firm has 52,000 associates and a branch presence in 68 percent of U.S. counties and is committed to helping more people achieve financially what is most important to them.



Jacob Ostermeyer

by Melissa Newland

The Western Upper Peninsula Health Department (WUPHD) visited L'Anse Area School (LAS) 7th grade Science classes to increase their knowledge of nutrition, improving health, and being aware of dangerous habits that can damage one's health.

Arnie Kinnunen, Health Educator for WUPHD, met with the classes Thursday, April 13, 2023, encouraging students to improve their health by making healthy diet choices.

According to LAS Science Teacher, Dr. David A. Ruhman, (also teaching Algebra I, Mathematics 8), Kinnunen reviewed the federal government's "My Plate" program and worked to make sure students could determine what made up healthy choices in each of the plate areas.

"He identified that students should be looking at their total calorie count for consumed foods as part of using this program to their advantage. One of the prime concepts shared with students related to how a better diet results in doing better in school," stated Ruhman.

Another area covered in the presentation by

WUPHD shares info on healthy habits

Kinnunen included the importance of staying hydrated, noting to the students it is important to consume up to eight 8-ounce glasses of water per day.

"He told students that the human body is between 60-75% water," said Ruhman. "He indicated the importance of water in muscle function in class, in sports, and with activities at home and that it will be even more important as temperatures increase through the spring."

Students were led in a discussion by Kinnunen on things that negatively impact health and discussed the importance of limiting "screen time" or using an electronic device, to two hours per day, when possible.

"Spending more time on electronic devices reduces socialization, interrupts sleep patterns for good rest, and should not be used when trying to go to sleep," Kinnunen told the students.

He also encouraged students to develop "screen free" zones where they can counter the negative impact of these devices.

He also led students in a discussion about the impact of peer pressure on the use of electronic devices, as well as with things such as vaping and

other harmful substances.

"Students were encouraged to speak up and speak out if they were having difficulty in any of the areas

WUPHD
Continued on page 7A



HEALTHY HABITS--were discussed by the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department (WUPHD) Health Educator Arnie Kinnunen with L'Anse Area School (LAS) 7th grade Science classes to increase their knowledge of nutrition, improving health, and being aware of dangerous habits that can damage one's health.

Baraga County Memorial Hospital

JOB OPENINGS

Full Time Registered Nurse, LPN, or Medical Assistant Variable 11am-7pm some weekends- SIGN ON BONUS AVAILABLE
BCMh Physician Group is looking for an RN, LPN, or Medical Assistant. Must be licensed in the State of Michigan. One year of clinic experience preferred.

4 Day/Week & 5 Day/Week Home Care Registered Nurses- SIGN ON BONUS AVAILABLE
BCMh has openings for a 4 day per week & 5 day per week Home Care/Hospice registered nurse. Must be licensed as an RN in the State of Michigan. Must have and maintain a valid driver's license and a clean driving record. Must have and maintain vehicle insurance.

Full Time Med Tech or Medical Laboratory Technician- SIGN ON BONUS AVAILABLE
BCMh has an opening for a Med Tech or a Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT). Must have two years education in an approved institution in the Medical Laboratory Technician program. No experience necessary other than internship program. Must understand the use and limitations of laboratory equipment and is familiar with laboratory methods and techniques for handling material for bacteriological examination. Should have a basic knowledge of various fields of specialty laboratory work.

Full Time Registered Nurse, LPN, or Medical Assistant- SIGN ON BONUS AVAILABLE
BCMh Physician Group is looking for an RN, LPN, or Medical Assistant. Must be licensed in the State of Michigan. One year of clinic experience preferred.

4 days/week Housekeeper- SIGN ON BONUS AVAILABLE
BCMh is looking for part time housekeepers. Must be able to operate and care for common cleaning devices, how to measure cleaning solutions, and be alert to hazards.

4 Day/Week & 5 Day/Week Radiographer/CT Technologists- SIGN ON BONUS AVAILABLE
BCMh has openings for a 4 day/week and a 5 day per week radiographer/CT Technologist. Must have satisfactory completion of formal radiologic technology training in an AMA approved school.

Director Of Nursing – SIGN ON BONUS & RELOCATION AVAILABLE
The Director of Nursing (DON) manages the Nursing Division including Emergency Department, Acute Care, Swing Bed, Ambulatory Care, Perioperative services, Anesthesia, Social Services/Activities, Infection Control, Utilization Review, Education, Emergency Management, Telemedicine, Home Care and Hospice. Plans, organizes, and directs all related functions and activities; establishes goals, objectives, standards of performance; develops operating policies and procedures; interprets hospital policies, standards and regulations to appropriate staff, patients, medical staff and the public.

Registered Nurse/Staff Nurse – 36 hour/week *Up to \$4,000 Sign On Bonus*
The Registered Nurse, Staff Nurse administers professional nursing services in caring for injured or ill patients, based upon the age of the individual served. Patients served may include: infants – newborn to 2 years of age; Pediatric – 2 to 10 years of age; Pediatric /Young Adult – 10 to 18 years of age; Adult – 18 to 65 years of age; Geriatric – over 65 years of age. The RN provides bedside nursing services following guidelines established in the Nurse Practice Act under the provisions of Act No. 149 of the Public Acts of 1967. The RN documents care given to patients and observed response from that care.

Dietary Assistant – 32 Hours/Week and 24 Hours/Week Positions Available – Sign On Bonus Available*
The Dietary Assistant prepares, seasons and cooks food for patient and personnel. Maintains high standards of quality food production and portion control using standard recipes. Insures that food is palatable and appetizing in appearance.

If you are interested in any of the above job posting, or for more information, please contact the HR office at (906) 524-3465 or jbeeler@bcmh.org. You can also apply Online by scanning the QR code provided to the right.



Speciality Clinics

Orthopedics.....April 28
Surgical Clinic.....April 20 & 27
Cataracts.....April 24
Urology.....April 26
Superior Family Chiropractic.....April 20
Podiatry.....April 21

For more info or to contact the Clinic, please call 524-3364

BCMh COVID Vaccine Drive-Thru Clinics:

Bivalent boosters and original series available

Moderna: 5/3/23 10am-11am ages 18+

Pfizer: 5/3/23 10am-11am ages 12+

Location: BCMh 18341 US HWY 41 L'Anse

NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY

Please bring COVID Vaccine Card

Please see our website or Facebook page for more information

Pfizer vaccines for children ages 5-11 available at the BCMh Physician Group, call 906-524-6118

For other COVID questions, please call the BCMh Physicians Group.

APPENDIX F

Arvon Township Planning Commission Public Hearing for Recreation Plan Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Call to Order

Roll Call

Nancy Strohschein (Chair)

Linnea Barron (Secretary)

Joe Bollech (Board of Review)

Bob Janda (Board Rep)

Robert Lindert (Vice Chair)

Jay Loman (Board of Review Chair)

Donna Preston

Pledge of Allegiance:

Introductions/Guests: Jason McCarthy (Consultant) expected to attend in person

Approval of Agenda:

Agenda:

- I. Recreation Plan introduction – Jason McCarthy
 - A. What is it?
 - B. Why do we have one?
 - C. How will it be used?
 - D. How is it funded?
- II. Process of updating the Recreation Plan – Nancy Strohschein
 - A. Reference the Master Plan adopted in 2022
 - B. Take advice from consultant based on other successful Recreation Plans
 - C. Survey the community
 - D. Develop goals
 - E. Determine projects
- III. Public Comment on the plan
- IV. Consideration of any changes suggested
- V. Approval by Planning Commission – Roll Call Vote
- VI. Next steps: Presentation to Arvon Township Board on September 11
- VII. Next meetings
 - A. Monday, September 11, 2023 6:00 PM: Township Board meeting where the board will consider adoption of the Recreation Plan
 - B. September 21, 2023: Planning Commission work session – Zoning Ordinance update
 - C. Wednesday, October 11, 2023 6:00 PM: Quarterly Planning Commission Meeting

Adjourn

APPENDIX G

Arvon Township Planning Commission Public Hearing for Recreation Plan

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

Roll Call: Nancy Strohschein, Chair; Linnea Barron, Secretary, Bob Janda, Township Board Representative Robert Lindert, Vice Chair; Jay Loman, Board of Review Chair. Absent: Joe Bollech with notice.

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited.

Introductions/Guests: Jason McCarthy, consultant; John and Kathy Salisbury; Jay Fish, Township Supervisor.

Approval of Agenda: Jay made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Donna. Motion carried.

Agenda:

I. Recreation Plan introduction by Jason.

Jason highlighted from the recreation plan that the Arvon Township Recreation Plan (2024-2028) serves as a road map to the future regarding recreation planning and development within the community. The plan's primary focus is to ensure that quality recreational opportunities are available for users of all ages and abilities. Recreation provision in Arvon Township is a key component of community planning, as it serves as a benchmark for how residents and visitors view their quality of life. The plan includes an introduction to what this plan is and why we need it, how to use the plan, and funding. Contents include a community description, administrative structure, recreation inventory, description of the planning process, description of the public input process, goals and objectives and action plan. Each area has its importance in developing a recreation plan as the information obtained assists in exploring what Arvon Township already possesses, what the community would like in recreation and how to accomplish it. The recreation plan is necessary and includes all the components required to obtain grants for future projects.

Jason stated how the process began with reviewing the old recreation plan (2012-2016), updating information, improving maps, reviewing all the recreational opportunities already in place, setting up a community survey, a community input session, followed by goals and objectives and an action plan. Paper surveys were sent to around 500 residents/landowners, plus an on-line monkey survey was available. There were about 107 responses, about a quarter of the population, which Jason stated was very good. The survey results were compiled and presented at a public input session on May 3, 2023. From the input session, the goals and objectives were developed, and an action plan set up for the next five years. The first two years in the action plan focus on the Arvon Township Park, but Jason added that any of the projects can be moved around to a different date depending on need. Jason stressed how this recreation plan is resident generated.

Funding for projects can be through grants, local in-kind participation, community funding, or the possibility of millage funding. The timeline for most grants is the application needs to be submitted by February 1 and the deadline is April 1. If a grant is obtained it would be for the following year. Most grants do a matching fund of 75% to 25%. Important components in a recreation plan are to prioritize improvements and to use it as a road map for recreation opportunities.

The survey also included a question if anyone was interested in volunteering to be on a recreation committee for Arvon Township. There was a surprising response of fifteen people interested. This will be followed up on in the future.

In closing, Jason mentioned that he has applied to be the Zoning Administrator for our township and could help with grant applications.

II. Process of Updating the Recreation Plan

Nancy felt Jason covered the process well and had a few questions. If donations are obtained from some source, does that count as 25% of the township's part? Jason said yes it does.

Another question Nancy had was reference to reviewing the plan annually. Jason clarified that it is helpful each year to see what has been done, grant application, what project is being worked on, etc. This could be done at budget planning time or at the first quarterly meeting of the year.

III. Public Comment on the plan.

Jay Fish commented he liked the simplicity of the plan, it does not change the footprint of Arvon Township. Projects are scaled to the rural community. Jay made an additional comment that Lyme pulled their signs indicating permission on their properties. This has to do with the paperwork is incomplete and affects surrounding property owners, so the signs are down for now.

Cathy Salisbury asked if the approved plan will be accessible to all residents. Jason stated the cost of printing is high, but there are a few copies available. The best way to access the recreation plan is on the Arvon Township's website, which is www.arvontownship.org.

Bob asked Jason how much he would charge for working on grant applications. Jason may become our zoning administrator and the administrative cost in grant application comes out of the grant program, usually 15%.

Donna asked if the Township Board needs to approve a recreation committee at this upcoming meeting. Jason felt it was not necessary at this time, perhaps at budget time.

IV. Consideration of any changes.

None.

V. Approval by Planning Commission – Roll Call Vote.

Nancy Strohschein – yes

Bob Janda – yes

Robert Lindert – yes

Jay Loman – yes

Donna Preston – yes

Linnea Barron – yes

VI. Next steps: Presentation to Arvon Township Board on September 11

VII. Next meetings

A. Monday, September 11, 2023, 6 PM: Township Board meeting where the board will consider adoption of the Recreation Plan.

B. September 21, 2023: Planning Commission Work session, Zoning Ordinance update

C. Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 6 PM: Quarterly Planning Commission Meeting

Adjourn: Robert made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Donna. Motion carried. Adjournment at 6:45 PM

Submitted by Linnea Barron, Secretary

APPENDIX H

ARVON TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN | 2024-2028

WHEREAS, the Arvon Township Planning Commission is made up of representatives from Arvon Township, Baraga County, Michigan, and

WHEREAS, the Arvon Township Planning Commission began the process of developing the *Arvon Township Recreation Plan | 2024-2028* in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Arvon Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft of the *Arvon Township Recreation Plan | 2024-2028* for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on September 7, 2023 at the Arvon Township Hall by the Arvon Township Planning Commission to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the *Arvon Township Recreation Plan | 2024-2028*, and

WHEREAS, the Arvon Township Planning Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Arvon Township, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Arvon Township Board of Trustees voted to adopt said *Arvon Township Recreation Plan | 2024-2028*.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Arvon Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the *Arvon Township Recreation Plan | 2024-2028*.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0 Absent:

FISH
MARINICH
ELIASON
JANDA

<<Seal here>>

I, Lisa M. Märmel, Township Clerk, do hereby
certify that the foregoing is a true and original
copy of a resolution adopted by the Arvon
Township Board of Trustees after a
Planning Commission Public Hearing
was held on the 11th day of
September, 2023.

Lisa M. Märmel
Township Clerk

APPENDIX I

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Jay Fish called the Regular Board meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. at the Arvon Township fire hall on September 11, 2023.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT: Jay Fish-Supervisor, Lisa Marinich-Clerk, Krystal Eliason-Treasurer, Robert Janda-Trustee, Chris Walmhoff-Trustee/absent.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Janda motioned, seconded by Eliason to approve the August 7, 2023 minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Eliason motioned, seconded by Janda to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Township Board trustee Chris Walmhoff sent the board a letter of resignation effective immediately on September 10, 2023. He explained that his work demands more of his time.

OLD BUSINESS: There were no updates from the Planning Commission at this time.

-Land easement is to be tabled until next months meeting. The board is considering hiring a new township attorney. Tinti has not contacted Fish back in months. Table this issue until next months meeting.

-The board did not receive any bids on the restoration of the township hall. Marinich will put it in the L'Anse sentinel for next week. Tabled until next months meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Nancy Strohschein offered to look into the Fema Flood insurance issue. Table until next months meeting.

-Eliason motioned, seconded by Janda to approve the 2023 L-4029 tax rate request. All in favor, motion passed.

-The Recreation plan is at its final stage. The Planning Commission approved it for the Arvon Township board to approve. Eliason motioned, seconded by Marinich to adopt The Arvon Township Recreation Plan/ 2024-2028. The Resolution to adopt it was approved by all members of the board-Eliason, Marinich, Janda and Fish. 4 years and 0 neys.

-Due to Chris Walmhoff resigning from the township board trustee position, the board will appoint a replacement at next months board meeting. This will be tabled until next months meeting.

-Zoning Administrator Ken Anderson will be retiring at the end of the year. An add will be put in the paper in November. Fish let the board know that Jason McCarthy is interested in the position.

JAMES FEDIE: Absent

MAIL CALL:

TREASURER'S REPORT: Eliason gave the monthly Treasurer's Report. General Fund-\$337,599.26 Ambulance/EMT Fund-\$24,519.56 Fire Fund-\$310,779.74 Liquor Fund-\$489.07, Road Fund-\$171,330.46. Marinich motioned, seconded by Janda to approve the Treasurer's Report. All in favor, motion passed.

BILL APPROVAL: Marinich motioned, seconded by Eliason to approve the bills. All in favor, motion passed.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting date will be October 2, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. at the Fire hall.

ADJOURN: Eliason motioned, seconded by Marinich to adjourn at 7:15 P.M. All in favor, motion passed.

Lisa M. Marinich/Arvon Township Clerk