

Adams Township Planning Commission
2023 Annual Report
January 8, 2024

The Adams Township Planning Commission met 5 times in 2023, four regular meetings and one public hearing.

At the February 16th meeting we reviewed the results of the returned recreation surveys and discussed priorities for recreation projects based on the survey results. Jay Ruohonen informed us of a planned donation of land for a nature park in Atlantic Mine and asked if the Township would be interested in partnering with the school to develop this. We agreed we'd like to be part of this project. The Commission reviewed our draft 5-year Recreation Plan, voted to accept it, and to schedule the necessary public hearing and 30-day review for the plan.

On May 1st the commission held a public hearing on the 5-year Recreation Plan. Public comment was positive, a motion was made and seconded to send the plan to the Township Board for adoption.

At the June 8th meeting the commissioners learned about the stipulations for the development of a playground in Baltic on property donated by Joe and Chris Deforge. We will be continuing to look for grant funding sources for all proposed projects with work at the Baltic Sports Complex being top priority at this time.

December 21st the Planning Commission met to wrap up the year. Roof repairs have been completed on the ice rink over the locker rooms and those areas and the concession stand have been cleaned and painted. Work is planned to replace a 30' section of the boards at the rink and fill some gaps along the bottom to help with flooding the rink.

Still no word from the DNR on acceptance of the Recreation Plan but we will begin work on grant applications to them anyway. We plan to ask for several

smaller grants from different sources to help with upgrades at the Atlantic Mine playground, begin site work on the Baltic playground, and for the planned Water Tower Trails. The Township has committed 150-man hours to the trail project. We'd like to build our partnership with the Adams Township Schools for work on the Ruohonen trails and other proposals.

The Planning Commission had a productive year with the results of the recreation surveys coming back, the 5-year recreation plan being written and submitted and plans for improving our existing facilities and developing new projects being made. Planning and work will be ongoing as funds and volunteer labor permit.

In 2024 Houghton County will be reviewing and updating their Master Plan. The Adams Township Planning Commission will be kept informed of any changes that impact Adams Township. When the County plan is completed, we will be reviewing our Township Master Plan to keep it up to date.

Thank you, Planning Commissioners, Paul Eister, Terry Parolini, Sherry Kinnunen and Dan Coponen, for sticking with me and making progress!

Martha Dugdale
Adams Township Planning Commission Chairperson