

Foreman's Report December 10, 2011---January 6, 2012

The dearth of snow, and now these unreal temperatures, has been demoralizing personally, but good for two reasons to the Town's benefit. Maybe three, as at this rate, we will not be spending any money on winter transportation. We have saved considerable dollars in truck fuel, wear and tear, as, except for the New Year's Eve snowfall, we haven't had to plow snow since the last report, during a month which as a rule is one of the snowiest. And it enabled the crew to finish nearly all the tree cutting for the new campground loop on the north side of Big Bay Road and now we have everything cut and burned on the south side.

I signed off on the NCCC completion report and will now try and figure out how to get a couple more crews here for helping with the boardwalk and general work at BBTP, along with little more invasive plant removal.

Yesterday, January 5th, Tom Fratt and Mike Pero, with the Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department (ACLWCD), came over and visited various projects sites for possible funding opportunities. These included the Old Fort Road bike lane extension up to the clubhouses, Griggs Approach, BBTP and the North Shore Road big ravine. The only project they thought would be eligible for their funds would be the big ravine, and they will work on a cost share agreement, but at this time are not sure of their upcoming funding. It seems they will be able to assist us with some surveying and design work on the bike lane, which would be great.

Big Bay Town Park

As you are aware Chequamegon Bay Engineers (CBE) let go of John Griffin, and we are now working with new engineers. The new comfort station/attendant building design is coming along, as well as the wood shed, picnic shelter and new pit toilets. I have asked Bill Kurtz, CBE owner, to re-visit the possibilities for a mound system, as well as culvert and gravel quantities.

I recently talked with Jason Berkner, with the USACOE, about the progress of the wetland fill permit application, and he felt we should be able to start work by June or July. He isn't sure yet how the historical aspects of the process will play out, but felt that a Phase I Archaeological Survey will be necessary, and hopefully there will not be the need for Cultural Resource Monitors due to the fact excavations will be minimal.

Reservations have started happening for the park, and brought up the question about the quietness campers insist on versus the construction that needs to take place for the improvements in order to have everything in place for 2013. We are looking at dividing the construction around the busy season of July and August.

Griggs Approach

Bill Kurtz, with CBE, has submitted a revised contract for the approach that doesn't include any dock elements. Since the surveyors were over here for BBTP, I approved their field work at the approach, so that their draftsman could get me a revised plan to go to the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) meeting in Madison with on January 24th. If we do not get WCMP funding this year, it is possible I will be pushing to reconstruct the ramp this year, as the water level continues to go down and if these conditions (lack of ice and precipitation) persist it will afford the best opportunity to work on a new ramp.

Harbor Ordinance

As requested at the last meeting, I have been working towards some sort of resolution concerning the anchor and chain near the breakwater. The DNR Wardens and Water Management Specialists are looking into it, and I will be attending a meeting soon with them. I have calls into the Coast Guard and USACOE as well. After digging up our permits and looking through old files, I have come to a conclusion that for proper enforcement of these issues we need our own ordinance. One was drafted by Scott Clark back in 1984, and for various reasons, this was never adopted. It has been discussed by Town Boards ever since, and I think one of the main reasons it has never been fully developed was due to the question of bulkhead lines, or to say plainly...just what area are we looking to have enforcement in? I have involved Chief Anderson, and the Harbor Committee is going weigh in at their next meeting. I also asked JJR if they have any experts on staff that could assist, and they are taking a quick look at the Scott Clark draft.

Respectfully Submitted

Keith Sowl
Town Foreman
Town of La Pointe