

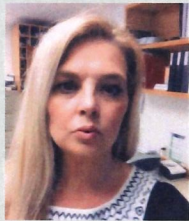
BOARD OF TRUSTEES



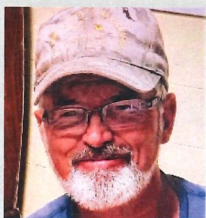
Ron VanZee, Supervisor
supervisor@hayestownshipmi.gov



Matt Cunningham, Trustee
Trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov



Kristin Baranski, Clerk
clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov



Doug Kuebler, Trustee
Hayestrustee5@gmail.com



Julie Collard, Treasurer
treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov



Hayes VOICE

TOWNSHIP

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

#22

September 2024

A Note from the Desk of Hayes Township Supervisor, Ron VanZee:

It's a very common challenge for Townships, especially smaller rural ones like Hayes, to find qualified, dedicated, and productive members of the community for Planning Commission Boards. It's a thankless commitment, with hours of training and complicated concepts to discuss and apply. By some great stroke of luck, timing, or a mix of both, Hayes Township has been fortunate to gather the current Planning Commissioners together who create the perfect storm. I say that in the most complimentary way possible—this group is impeccable.

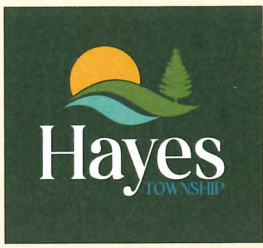
We have members who live off Lake Charlevoix, Lake Michigan, and Susan Lake. Protecting the lakeshore is a top priority for this commission. They come from different professions and backgrounds and bring unique strengths to the table as individuals, working beautifully as a team. Listening to this group have educated and balanced discussions regarding the Zoning Ordinance update and all other matters brought before them is fantastic. This group has been doing a stellar job; between the update and addressing community concerns through the process. During their meetings, I listen to them and am so proud of the thoughtful discussions and comments, and I invite all our residents to come to the Planning Commission meetings (held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Township Hall) and watch this process in person.

I hope it will give you the same sense of pride it does to me to listen to these consummate professionals in action, working to make decisions that have a direct and positive impact on our community. If you can attend, please acknowledge their efforts and take a moment to thank them in person.

Warmest Regards,
Ron VanZee

Voice Mission Statement:

To share, educate, and connect with our residents and support a strong and engaged community.

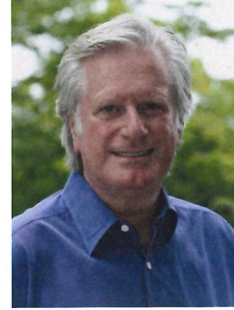
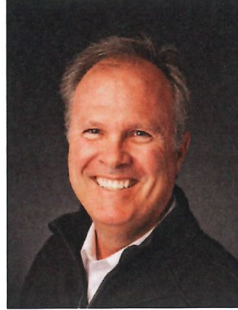
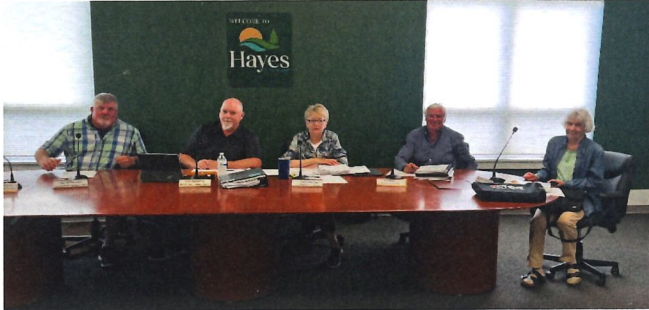


VOICE VIEWS

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Hayes Township Hall
9195 Major Douglas Sloan Rd.
Charlevoix, MI 49720
231-547-6961

For the most up to date information
visit: hayestownshipmi.gov



Hayes Township Planning Commissioners

From left to right:

Matt Cunningham,
Chairman Roy Griffiths, Car-
ey Cuddeback, CT Martin,
Marilyn Moorehead, Mark
Snyder, & Rex Greenslade

Part Two: Planning Commission Zoning Ordinance Update

This article is part two of a two-part series highlighting local trends, challenges, and considerations the Planning Commission takes into consideration as they update the Zoning Ordinance. These will direct the focus of the discussions and ultimately the recommendations on future planning and zoning actions. Comments have been compiled for space and to avoid duplication. Every member participated in this article. Part one can be found in the July 2024 edition of the Hayes Township Voice, available at the Township Hall and online at hayestownshipmi.gov.

At the end of 2023, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed historic clean energy legislation making Michigan a national leader in the fight against climate change, including that by 2040, Michigan will produce all its energy from clean sources. By 2030, Michigan will produce 50% of its energy from renewable sources and 60% from renewables by 2035. This will mean significant opportunities for commercial-scale renewable energy developments and requires that every area within our State plan for allowing such projects or face the State overriding local decisions and allowing projects. We need to identify areas where such projects, if proposed, would be least disruptive to the Township.

We cannot ignore the challenge of housing for those who cannot afford to acquire or rent houses that routinely sell for hundreds of thousands, to millions, of dollars. Yet these homes are not representative of homes within our Township as a whole. Conversely, Hayes Township can be viewed as a microcosm of those in our nation who have or strive to make ends meet.

Much has been made of the lakefront properties, particularly those on Lake Charlevoix, regarding the protection of water quality. A one-issue focus of keeping the area exactly the same as it has been serves only to direct attention away from the issues facing the rest of the Township. The three lakes in the Township are a valuable asset but managing growth along them should reflect a science-based approach. Working in concert with the State and Federal agencies responsible for regulating them, we need to balance the rights of property owners on the lake with regulations which protect them from the effects of development.

Additionally, the challenges that farmers face to continue to be successful increase every year and regulations on farming techniques and the use of agro-chemicals increase their burden. While most of us like the bucolic open space that farms provide, economic pressures and the uncertainty confronting the next generation of farmers is likely to make that open land an attractive purchase opportunity for potential property developers. We must have plans that provide for managed growth for all.



Note from Treasurer Julie Collard

Please remember that all summer property taxes are due without penalty by September 16, 2024. The office will be open from 9am to Noon, and I will be there from 2-4pm to process additional payments. Remember, you can mail your payment, pay online through PSN on hayestownshipmi.gov, drop your payment in the dropbox across from the Township Hall doors, or pay in person. Julie holds regular hours on Thursday from 11-1pm, and is more than happy to make appointments with residents. If you have questions, please contact me at (231)675-5927, or email at treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov. Thank you!

Connecting with other Municipalities...

Kristin Baranski and Julie Collard, our Clerk and Treasurer, were recently invited to take part in a roundtable discussion led by Maner Costerisan. They participated with other officials who serve Northern Michigan communities, and it was an afternoon well spent. Leaders in other communities echoed the same challenges we face here: affordable housing, rising fire safety costs, and households struggling to make ends meet as well as food instability. We were very proud to share the details about our Hayes food pantry and hope to have inspired other communities to start their own small pantries.



Seasonal Residents:

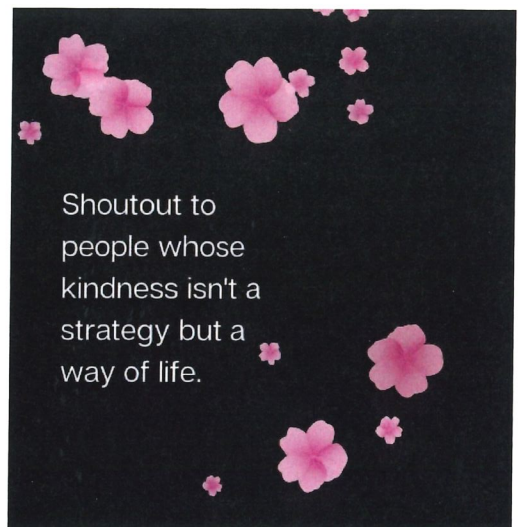
As the Charlevoix summer fades to an end, we know a lot of our residents head to warmer vistas. If you find yourself with extra canned or non-perishable foods, please consider donating them to our food pantry. It has had very heavy traffic over the summer, and we know every donation will be so appreciated by the members of our community who rely on this food source. You bring donations in during office hours or leave them at the back door off hours. Thank you to everyone who has left food and stocked the outdoor box over the summer: we may not know who you are, but we appreciate you and your quiet kindness.



Primary Election Thank You

From our Clerk, Kristin Baranski:

Thank you so much to our amazing and dedicated election workers! It was a long day with no air conditioning, yet our crew kept smiles on their faces, had positive attitudes, and worked as a great team. Thank you to all voters, both in person and absentee. Stay tuned for updates on the November 2024 election!



Shoutout to people whose kindness isn't a strategy but a way of life.



Hayes Township Community Picnic

Amazing live music, fresh grilled hot dogs, and a silent auction helped make our Community Picnic a success! Thank you to all the residents who came to enjoy the day and support our beautiful Hayes Township Parks!

EMS Authority Report



The Lake Charlevoix EMS Authority has released their annual report to the community. They have had a substantial increase in emergency runs, which are up from 2023 runs to 2257 runs. 197 of them were in Hayes Township last year. With the new EMS station off of Major Douglas Sloan Road, response times have dropped by lifesaving minutes, getting our community the emergency assistance they need faster than ever before. Thank you to our first responders for their dedication and commitment to our residents.

Hayes Township Calendar

September 2024

Thursday, September 5
Community Coffee, 1pm

Monday, September 9
Board of Trustees, 7pm

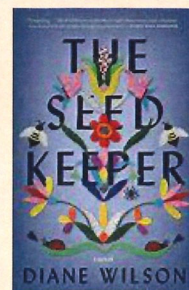
Monday, September 16
Parks & Recreation, 6pm

Tuesday, September 17
Planning Commission, 7pm

Thursday, September 19
Book Club, 1pm

*Zoning Board of Appeals
There will be a public hearing for a variance request from the Conservancy. Date was not set at time of printing. Please check Township website for current information.*

All events are held at the Hayes Township Hall unless otherwise noted.



September Book Club Pick!

The Seed Keepers
by Diane Wilson

To get more information or be added to our Book Club e-mail list, please contact Clerk Kristin Baranski at (231)547-6961

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