

The Farmington Town Board held a workshop with representatives from Boughton Park Commission on May 24, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the Farmington Town Hall there were:

**Present:** Supervisor Peter Ingalsbe  
Councilman Nate Bowerman  
Councilman Mike Casale  
Councilman Steven Holtz  
Town Clerk Michelle Finley

**Also Present in person: Ron Brand** – Director of Planning and Development, **Ed Hemminger** – Planning Board Chairman, **Dan Delpriore** – Code Enforcement Officer, **Adrain Bellis** – Planning Board Member, **Supervisor Todd Campbell**- West Bloomfield, **Tim Hannan**, **David Damaske**, **Chris Culbertson**, **Bridgett Callari**

Supervisor Ingalsbe stated that in April 2018 they met with the Boughton Park Commission. Mr. Damaske stated that Boughton Park used to be the water supply for the Village of Fairport and back in the mid 80's it was beginning to be where it could not supply enough water and the State was having higher quality specifications, so the Village decided to go with Monroe County Water Authority and then decided to sell the property. East Bloomfield came to the Towns of West Bloomfield, Victor, and Farmington back then to go in on the purchase of the property. He believed Wes Payne was the Supervisor at that time and the Town decided not to go in on the purchase back then, but he knows that there has been interest from Farmington in more recent years. He added that the three towns that are already owners felt it was a good idea to ask Farmington if they wanted to join in with them. Mr. Damaske stated that when the park was originally setup to be more or less forever wild, they have established trails, built a couple of storage buildings for mowers and equipment and picnic pavilions. He added that the land is 300+ acres and 2 ponds.

Supervisor Ingalsbe referred to the handout. He added that back in 2018 they did come before the Park Commission at that time, Supervisor Marren sponsored him and set up a few things ahead of time and had a conversation with the Commission at that time. He stated that back then that Farmington is interested, and they are still interested. He stated that they value the parks that they do have, and they are just finishing with the newest park and hopefully put a lodge at that park in 2024/2025. Supervisor Ingalsbe stated that the town has been saving money for the expansion of parks or to be a member of Boughton Park.

Councilman Holtz stated that he was at the meeting back in 2018 and there was a lot of discussion then it went quiet. He stated that this is inline for the use they are looking for and the appeal to it is it is different that the facilities that they have now, such as fishing access and nature trails.

Town Clerk Finley asked if the permits are issued by each Town Clerk or just one, Mr. Damaske replied by each Town Clerk of each Town. Supervisor Ingalsbe stated that in 2018 nobody had a handle on how many were issued by each town and asked if they have that information today or could they get that information. Mr. Damaske replied that he would have to ask each of the Town Clerk's for that information and that Victor puts out more than the other two towns due to the size of the town. Mr. Culbertson added that there is no electronic data for the number of permits issued, its all on paper so an accurate count is not available.

Councilman Casale asked if there was a limit on the number of permits each town could issue. Mr. Culbertson replied that there is no limit and that anyone from the three towns can go to any of the three towns and get a permit. Town Clerk Finley asked if once issued a permit is it good forever or it is a yearly thing. Mr. Culberston replied that the permits are good for three years. Mr. Bellis asked what happens if a vehicle does not have a permit, Mr. Culberston replied that they get a warning first then towed after that. Mr. Delpriore asked who enforces it, Mr. Culberston replied that they is a retired deputy who patrols the park. Councilman Holtz asked if there was a full-time maintenance person, Mr. Damaske replied that there is a part-time maintenance person and a part-time retired deputy who patrols the park, and they have a tree surgeon who is on call as needed to take care of dead trees, and many volunteers. He added that tags are issued for each vehicle.

Mr. Brand stated that the park is a rare gem and provides a recreational alternative that is difficult to replicate in Farmington. Mr. Delpriore stated that he tracks a lot of things in his office, and it is hard to justify the use of the park if they do not know how many permits are being issued. He added that he would think that each town would want to know how many they are issuing so that they can justify the use of taxpayer's money. Mr. Campbell stated that the way the original agreement was drafted was that each town was taxed according to their tax base so there was not an issue with the number of people going per town, they looked at it as the park is available to everyone. He added that if Farmington joins in with them, it will be a welcomed discussion on the issuing and tracking of permits and that the clerks are flexible when issuing permits for instance, if someone from West Bloomfield wanted a to get a permit at Victor, they could do that and vise versa. He added that people probably go to Victor more because they are opened longer.

Supervisor Ingalsbe stated that back in 2018 they couldn't tell them how many users there were from each town, and that their concern was that if Farmington joined that the park would get overwhelmed with visitors. He added that they are having this conversation again and they still don't know, and it doesn't seem that the three towns are overtaxed as far as the usage except for some weekends or something like that. Mr. Campbell stated that the most limiting factor is the parking, there is not a huge amount of parking and he thought that was done completely by design to keep the number of people in the park controlled. He added that the number of people in the park is significantly less than the number of permits that are handed out.

Mr. Brand stated that as the park grows as well as the participants what do they see as being the mechanism for capital improvements, is it the philosophy that the Board of Directors has that they are not interested in going to the State for grant funding. Mr. Damaske replied that he thinks the philosophy with the towns for the first 25 years was to keep cost down and they have basically done that until 5-6 years ago when park users came to them regarding the trails being beat up and that they need to do better on them. He added that the first 10-15 years that they had the park DEC didn't pay attention to them at all and then they started inspecting them and then about 8-10 years ago DEC started more requirements such as inspections of the dams and concerns with overflow of them. He added that the park is working on getting the trails better and that they have increased their budget to work on those. They would like to have more parking available. Mr. Culbertson stated that they would manage the improvements based on the towns because they would not seek state funding to just make improvements, the dams are more of a regulation requirement. He stated that the towns are happy with how things are going and they would consider grants from the towns to improve the trails and that right now it is mostly the volunteers who help maintain them. Supervisor Ingalsbe stated that they would not want to expand their park with baseball fields and soccer fields, they would like to keep it the way it is, and to keep the improvements to a minimum. He added that the board does have interest from the residents who would like to use that park and if they had an opportunity to join the other three towns they would. Mr. Bellis asked how many cars can park at the park. Mr. Damaske replied maybe 50 cars in 2 lots. Mr. Bellis asked if they do a lot with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Mr. Damaske replied yes and that they have 2-3 Eagle Scouts doing projects at the park every year and they camp there a few times a year. He added that it is mostly Boy Scouts and occasionally they have Girl Scouts.

Councilman Holtz stated that he sees on the map a camping area, but on the brochure, it states no camping, is that just for the Scouts, Mr. Damaske replied yes. Mr. Damaske stated that sometimes they have hiking groups and they are not overly strict if the participants of the group don't live in one of the three towns. Mr. Culbertson stated what he thinks some of the unknowns of the group is what the additional attendance going to be and that no one knows that answer so that is an unknown for them as well as the impact on the parking. Mr. Hemminger stated that he can not believe that Farmington's usage would be greater than Victor's.

Mr. Bellis asked how many people are on the Board and if there are term limits. Mr. Damaske stated there are nine members and they are divided by the three towns and the term limit is three years.

Supervisor Ingalsbe asked if anyone wanted to make a comment. C. Callari, online, sent a message stating that they are a lifelong resident of Farmington and they welcome the idea to get a permit to use the park.

Mr. Culbertson stated that what he understands from this meeting is that Farmington is interested in joining the park and join the park based on the current regulations and guidelines and principles that the park currently has published. Supervisor Ingalsbe replied yes, that is correct. Councilman Holtz stated that he doesn't see any guidelines that are unreasonable. Mr. Bellis asked what the cost would be to the Town of Farmington. Supervisor Ingalsbe replied that would be something the three towns would need to work on. Mr. Bellis stated that is something that should be figured out now and not down the road.

Supervisor Ingalsbe closed the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes taken and transcribed by

Michelle Finley, MMC, RMC  
Farmington Town Clerk