

May 15, 2019 Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners

This is about the way the airport tree clear-cutting was handled.

When the clear-cutting first took place, I called the airport office to ask why. The reason given was an FAA mandate.

But in the weeks that followed, there was no FAA mandate.

The reason was then switched to the need to be proactive referencing a Nature Assessment study.

But upon reviewing that Nature Assessment, it's apparent that the risk was low and tree thinning could have been an option.

The 3rd reason (and the most likely reason) for the tree clear-cutting seemingly is to develop an industrial park. ^{we} Whatever the reason, the public was taken by surprise and too many people are now distrustful.

Honesty, transparency and full disclosure are the way to deal with all difficult decisions impacting the public.

In an effort to keep citizens better informed, here's an idea to consider. You , the Grand Traverse BOC members, could appoint to the Airport Commission, the Commissioner who represents the airport neighborhood.

This could facilitate better dissemination of information.

Here's another idea that could be for the greater good.

Please consider using part of the denuded area as a location for solar panels to provide the Airport with its electricity. That seems like a "two-for". The Airport would be proactive while at the same time providing its own electricity. The airport's electrical bill would be slashed.

Best of all, it would be better for the climate ... for cleaner air and for all citizens.

Thank you.



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May 15, 2019

Grand Traverse Board of Commissioners
400 Boardman Avenue
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PUBLIC INPUT: About Public Input

Democracy happens when “We the People” have a voice in making decisions about all matters that determine the relations between “We the People”.

Good democracy can only happen when the voices of “We the People” are heard by those individuals who were elected by “We the People” to be representatives of “We the People”, and entrusted with some power we allow them to rule over us. Government “by the people” is thus the basis of democracy.

“We the People” have long established rules that require our elected representatives to conduct decision making in full view of “We the People”, which means we demand the opportunity to witness our government in action, and we expect our elected representatives to listen to us when we speak to them.

“We the People” are the “public” referred to in “public input”, where “We the People” have a limited opportunity to express viewpoints and ask questions on various matters. You the representatives are expected to listen, and you are expected to take public input into consideration when making your decisions. “We the People” may never have unanimous agreement about your decisions, but your decisions will be judged according to how open you have been with the public.

Until a few weeks ago, Grand Traverse County used to acknowledge statements made during public input by stating in the meeting minutes the subject matter of each comment made, and sometimes if the presenter was “for” or “against” some proposed action. Now, the minutes only report a list of names under public comment. The gist of this seems to be: “We the People” have not been heard. Or, you of the commission are afraid to acknowledge there is public sentiment, and public knowledge that contradicts what you know to be true.

Good government depends on well informed people, using valid information to justify any decision they make. “We the People” do not like expanding secrecy and deception.

Peace friends,



David B. Petrove

Please save for record — *OK*

a-rogers

From: "a-rogers" <a-rogers@charter.net>
Date: Monday, May 13, 2019 12:19 PM
To: <a-rogers@charter.net>
Subject: Fw: Review of County commissions/omissions

Most of these were by the Chair alone unless noted.

1. On Day 1 the meeting time was changed to 8 AM.
An invocation (prayer) was added to begin meetings (voted 4/3)
A committee of one (the chair) made appointments to committees (all were asked their preferences and that was ignored)
2. The Chair reserved the right to set the agendas
Public comment was restricted, and refused on whatever items he wishes.
3. Public (federal) money for needle exchange and addition treatment was denied (4/3 vote?)
4. Chair lied about tree cutting at the airport; finally sort of admitted it at the 5-1 meeting.
5. Chair tried to up the amount that can be spent without board approval. (tabled for now)
why ?

Now the Questions are: What else is the chairman trying to hide?

Our other concern is regarding the minutes of meetings; The clerk previously did them. Now that has changed (why?) and the minutes are so sketchy that they say virtually nothing about what was said or acted on.
Has anyone asked that they be changed?