

Historical Context *[not intended as comprehensive history of the Township]*

The settlement of the area now known as Pleasantview Township was delayed due to the 1855 Treaty of Detroit, which was an agreement between certain tribes in Michigan and the federal government. This treaty ended the forced removal of Native American people to Kansas by the federal government, by removing from sale certain lands within the public domain to allow for issuance of land allotments and fee patents to individual Native Americans. Most of the Native American settlements were located along the Lake Michigan shore.

Additionally, while the Homestead Act of 1862 allowed settlers to claim 100 acres of land, the land north of Harbor Springs was excluded and reserved for the Native Americans until the earlier treaty was revised in 1875.

While Emmet County was established in 1840 in its present shape and size, it was not until 1876 (after the treaty revision) that the Emmet County Board of Supervisors established Pleasantview Township, based on a petition from residents of the area. The Township population at that time was 418 people.

At the first township meeting, held on the 3rd of April 1876, Eli Culler was elected supervisor, Levi Dunham, clerk and Emos Warble, treasurer. All received 19 votes. In following years, the annual elections consisted of supervisor, clerk, treasurer, highways, school inspector, superintendent of schools, and constable.

Once formed the township began moving forward with its governmental functions such as, planning (roads), taxes, elections (township officials), annual meetings, and education (schools). The first of three township cemeteries was purchased in 1876 and these cemeteries are still in use today. In 1899, the Township appointed a Weed Commissioner. The prevalent milkweed seedpods in Pleasantview Township were collected and the milkweed down was used in the making of military life vests worn in WWI and WWII.

By 1900 Michigan's first logging boom was coming to an end but many resent day township residents can recount stories of their grandparents working in the logging camp in and around the township.

Following World War II, when Midwest skiing was just getting started, development pressure on Pleasantview Township was light because of its remoteness. Over the years, growth in area ski and resort facilities has followed transportation improvements, which provided easier access from metropolitan areas throughout the Midwest via air travel (commercial and private), as well as the improved highways in the State.

The township continued without much development or industry until the late 1950s. Harbor Highlands Ski Area (sometimes referred to as the Harbor Hills Ski Club) was founded by 12 Harbor Springs businessmen. Harbor Highlands became Boyne Highlands in 1963 when it was purchased by the Kircher family. Across the valley from Harbor Highlands, Norm (Nubby) and Doris Sarns opened Nub's Nob. Their ski area was later purchased by the Pleasantview Ski Corporation in 1977.

In 1954 Camp Pellston, a low security prison camp, was established on State-owned property on the northern border of the Township. The camp actually was located partially in Pleasantview Township and partially in Center Township. The facility housed 639 prisoners and employed some 36 employees. Camp Pellston operated until December 31, 2001 when it was permanently closed.

Land uses today in Pleasantview Township are directly tied to natural resources; timber, hills and game animals, due in part to the many large tracts of State-owned land within the

Township boundaries. A key has also been the inaccessibility of much of the township which has slowed development. No through state or federal highways and many seasonal local roads have limited township exposure to development pressure. At the same time continuing development of ski resorts and four-season recreation facilities at the south edge of the Township have created a pocket of high-density activity. Much of the growth and building density over the Township's history has centered primarily on seasonal uses, over the twenty years the Township has seen a significant increase in year-round residents.

The land use pressures and land use issues for Pleasantview Township are less than those faced by many of the other Townships in the area. For Pleasantview Township the land use pressures are reduced due in part to quantity of State-owned land that remains today and the extensive wetland area in the north central portion of the Township. Over the years the Township has continued to upgrade its services, work cooperatively with the other Emmet County townships and build upon the Township's history.

Pleasantview Township first adopted an interim Zoning Ordinance in 1972 prior to Emmet County adopting a county-wide Zoning Ordinance, and thus was never covered by the Emmet County Zoning Ordinance. The interim Zoning Ordinance was replaced with another Zoning Ordinance in the early 1980s. The current Pleasantview Township Zoning Ordinance was adopted in 1995 and most recently amended in 2007. The Township has not had its own Township Master Plan until this time. Pleasantview Township established a Planning Commission in approximately 1984.

Updated zoning ordinances supported by up-to-date master plans are considered the main tool Michigan communities have at their command to control land use patterns and development pressures. To provide a strong legal foundation, a zoning ordinance should correspond to an up-to-date adopted Master Plan. Since the Township administers a Township Zoning Ordinance, it is advisable that the Township adopt a Township-specific Master Plan to guide future development and provide a stronger legal foundation for the Township Zoning Ordinance.