

Thinking outside the box

Thank you, Powell Township, for initiating a 6 month moratorium on any decisions regarding the possible use of Granot Loma as a Space Launch. May I provide more food for thought?

I read about the \$400,000 GLRI Community Forest grant to acquire the Eagles Nest coastal property at the south end of Eagles Nest Road. "It includes a variety of forest types and coastal wetlands, including 1130 feet of Lake Superior sand shoreline."

"The community forest will provide multiple educational and recreational opportunities . . . , including hiking and cross-country ski trails, nature-watching opportunities, and public access to unique and varied coastal ecosystems.

Over 30 seasonal GLCC employees will help with environmental protection and restoration projects such as habitat restoration, trail construction, tree planting, wetland restoration, dune restoration, removal of invasives, water quality monitoring and community pollution-prevention projects."

As I read this description, I heard that Carl Lindquest of Superior Watershed attempted to call Tom Baldwin, unsuccessfully, regarding the purchase of Granot Loma.

If the small parcel at the south end of Eagles Nest Road is so valuable for conservation as well as providing public access for recreation and research, then what is the value of Granot Loma?

Imagine the possibilities. One area reserved for camping, some for primitive walk-in sites, trails, blinds, miles of beach and an historic lodge that could be used for tours as well as lodging, restaurant use, destination weddings, conventions, and various gatherings.

This summer, the parking lots of Sugarloaf, Wetmore, Little Presque Isle, Harlow Lake are full to capacity and overflowing onto 550. This last Friday I counted over 30 cars on 550 at Sugarloaf. Yes, it is COVID, but in the last year, multiple travel articles highlighted Marquette as a place to visit and to live. Why not, as we have it all right here.

Residents of Big Bay and Marquette would more likely find jobs with Granot Loma transformed into an outdoor recreation hub rather than being hired as rocket scientists and engineers. Those are specialized skills and may be located anywhere in the country.

Camden Spaceport in SE Georgia is buying out home owners so as to have full authority over their rocket launches; the residents of Boca Chica didn't ask Elan Musk to move in, but now his company is taking over and they are leaving what had been their idyllic ocean village. In China a rocket booster crashed near a school; 3 out of their 25 launches ended in failures. The

propellant they use is a mix of toxic hydrazine and nitrogen tetroxide. Contact with either could have serious effects on health.

### **SpaceX Successfully Launches Falcon 1 Rocket Into Orbit**

SpaceX's first three attempts to launch a Falcon 1 rocket ended in failure.

As you read about communities in proximity to Space Launches, it becomes more like a nightmare, with companies gaining a foothold and taking over. They ask people to evacuate, possibly at any hour day or night (who will pay for us to take up residence elsewhere at midnight, 2 am, 4am?). They put up road blocks so residents may need a special id in order to enter. They warn of broken windows due to the blast reverberations, and fail to mention that 1 out of 20 will fail.

There are an infinite number of negatives to a Space Launch in such a pristine environment as the one we live in, too numerous to recount here.

I ask that everyone involved take a second look, reassess where and how we want to live. Let's think outside the box. \$20 million is a high price tag, but I think that there are people involved and concerned who can help with grants and personal funding. The State of Michigan has already committed 2 million to MAMA so as to further Granot Loma as the chosen site, though apparently it was not the chosen site. Sawyer was, so perhaps the State was uninformed as to where that money was being directed.

Let's direct it here, now.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth j Bates

Elizabeth J Bates

### **'We'll Be Back' - Rocket Launch From Alaska Fails To Reach Orbit**

U.S. startup Astra says it has failed to reach orbit for the first time in a launch from Alaska's Kodiak Island, but plans to try again soon.

Read in Forbes: <https://apple.news/Aimh48Gf1R5SO2S4Q0-j3wQ>

### **Why SpaceX Wants a Tiny Texas Neighborhood So Badly**

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2020/02/space-x-texas-village-boca-chica/606382/>

### **Chinese rocket booster appears to crash near school during Gaofen 11 satellite launch**

<https://www.space.com/china-launches-gaofen-11-satellite-rocket-crash.html#:~:text=Chinese%20rocket%20booster%20appears%20to%20crash%20near%20school%20during%20Gaofen%2011%20satellite%20launch&text=A%20Chinese%20Long%20March%204B,to%20Earth%2C%20witness%20videos%20show.>

## **SpaceX**

[https://www.space.com/5905-spacex-successfully-launches-falcon-1-rocket-orbit.html#:~:text=SpaceX's%20fourth%20Falcon%20rocket,28%2C%202008.](https://www.space.com/5905-spacex-successfully-launches-falcon-1-rocket-orbit.html#:~:text=SpaceX's%20fourth%20Falcon%20rocket,28%2C%202008)

Jeanne Baumann  
322 Eagles Nest Rd.  
Marquette, MI. 49855  
September 23, 2020

Powell Township Planning Commission  
PO Box 319  
Big Bay, MI 49808  
Phil Moran, Chair  
Vice Chair Amanda Stephenson  
Williams  
Childers  
Hudson  
Korstad  
Mohrman

Dear Planning Commissioners;

Re: Granot Loma vertical launch site and rocket launch operations

Please forgive my incomplete address to you, as I have not found the first names of several of you. I hope to know you all, as I appreciate the role you play in maintaining the standard of livability we are known for, and is determined by ordinance in our township. I hope to support you in the coming consideration of a commercial spaceport.

The site consultation report requested by Marquette County/Michigan Aerospace Manufacturers Association (MAMA)/Michigan Launch Initiative (MLI), written by Explorer Solutions, dated September 18, 2019, identifies within the expanse of Granot Loma specifically the vertical launch site recently endorsed. The attributes of this privately owned area are described on page 19, and it states this location "would require the evacuation of 5 or 6 houses located southeast of the pad." I live about 1/2 aerial miles from this site (as the rocket flies), within the 1 km danger zone, and our home is definitely within the identified area that would require evacuation.

Since the July 23, 2020, surprise announcement, there has been a gaping information vacuum. The vague public announcement on the Marquette County courthouse steps brings forth many questions. And since the Marquette County planning staff, a county representative on the MLI and our county and our township planning commissions have not been able to answer our questions, I have been learning from some of the resources provided through MAMA and the MLI. I know you, as planning commissioners for our township, have also been informing yourselves about what the proposed vertical launch site in our township would bring to our lives, and have decided to utilize a minimum 6 month moratorium on action. As you have stated, there is no request for action from you at this time, and I applaud your initiative in learning about an area of commercial enterprise with which most township residents have little knowledge.

As I addressed your meeting on September 16, it was said that the board does not look to "the public" for facts about issues under consideration. What I bring to you is information gathered from sources provided by the Michigan Aeronautical Manufacturers Association and Michigan Launch Initiative, the public/private face of this initiative. Herein I provide the sources for the following information that may be helpful for you, so you can have confidence, as I have needed confidence in knowing what is being proposed.

**Launch Failure:** From [spacelaunchreport.com](http://spacelaunchreport.com) accessed 9/1/2020, I have learned the worldwide rocket launch failure rate 2017 through the present is 5+%. I have read about two commercial regional spaceports. The failure record at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, (MARS) is 3 of 21 including a massive explosion requiring a two year rebuilding ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Atlantic\\_Regional\\_Spaceport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Atlantic_Regional_Spaceport)). The Kodiak Island, Alaska spaceport has a similar failure record 7 of 25 launches, including its latest launch on September 12, 2020 ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific\\_Spaceport\\_Complex\\_-\\_Alaska](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Spaceport_Complex_-_Alaska)) dumping the off-course rocket 30 seconds after lift-off. [www.space.com/astra-launches-first-orbital-mission.html](http://www.space.com/astra-launches-first-orbital-mission.html) With the anticipated 20+ launches per year here, it seems likely at least one will fail each year, possibly catastrophically as at MARS and Kodiak. At the time of the MAMA/MLI announcement, Rocket Lab's *Electron* rocket, the model used in the Explorer Solutions plans, had been launched 13 times in at their

site in New Zealand. But only 12 of those launches succeeded. The thirteenth launch, on July 4, 2020, exploded shortly after leaving the launchpad, 'terminated' with debris scattered (<https://www.rocketlabusa.com/about-us/updates/rocket-lab-mission-fails-to-reach-orbit/>).

**Evacuation and Road/Shipping closures:** It is only through a FOIA request that I have learned that my home would be evacuated. I have not learned what this means, as our government officials don't know. Evacuated permanently? Only sometimes? How can a commercial enterprise take my home and land? How can a development that will severely devalue my home be permitted?

To understand life by a small spaceport, perhaps I could extrapolate from the Rocket Lab *Electron* launch completed on August 31, 2020. The following information is from the company website "Press Kit" [www.rocketlabusa.com/missions/completed-missions/i-cant-believe-its-not-optical/](http://www.rocketlabusa.com/missions/completed-missions/i-cant-believe-its-not-optical/) - see Press Kit .pdf. That mission, "I-can't-believe-its-not-optical," had a "launch window" 2 weeks long....would I be evacuated for two weeks? During the launch window, there was a "daily launch opportunity" four hours long.....would I be evacuated daily for those four hours until the launch was completed? Roads around the spaceport in New Zealand were closed 6 hours before the time of lift-off. Since the only road to our home is within the danger zone, will access to my home be prohibited and emergency services not available for hours? And the launch viewing site for the press was 17 miles away from the launch site.

I have learned from the launch record of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport that launches can occur any time of day or night..... 11 pm, 2 am, 5 am, 6 am. While the noise from a lakeshore launch would travel a long distance over water, and is far beyond the noise that may be a nuisance, all of these documented launches would violate our Noise and Public Nuisance Ordinance. How can the disturbance of these round-the-clock commercial launches be tolerated by the many residents within a few miles of this launch site? Or will my neighbors be asked to voluntarily evacuate?

You might want to see the kind of launch envisioned by the MAMA/MLI using an *Electron* rocket. As you do, envision this so close to many township residents, and

those in our neighboring townships with whom we co-ordinate zoning decisions. Here is the latest launch of Space Lab's Electron: 26 minutes, 8/31/20  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPIhI5mRDRI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPIhI5mRDRI)

Since the announcement, which county planners have said to me was "premature," we have halted a major project for our home, and lost money on contracted preparatory work. We are in limbo....We are now living with a much less secure future, and with no one answering questions critical for our life planning. Meanwhile, the storms sweeping in from Lake Superior tearing up the shoreline will continue.

The entire purpose of the township zoning ordinance is to provide stability, protections for residents, and retention of natural resources. I hope none of you faces a potential development such as this near your home.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Baumann

# Proposed Granot Loma Rocket Launch Site



Jill Storm <jillybeanstorm@gmail.com>

Reply all |

Today, 10:49 AM

Darlene Turner; phijomo@yahoo.com; Samantha Morin; Erica Waite

index

Dear Powell Township Commission, Ms. Turner, Mr. Moran, and Ms. Leahy,

Lake Superior is our precious resource. As you know, it brings people to our shores to visit and live. We built our home in the Saux Head Lake area in 1991. We were not originally from here, but were drawn to the pristine beauty of Lake Superior and the contentious community embracing it. Over the years we have seen the campgrounds, trails (like Sugarloaf), and special events held in the parks, bring increased tourism and economic gain to our community. Continued preservation of this environment, is paramount.

We are extremely concerned about the impact of debris in the lake, noise from launches, and pollution from exhaust and fuel. We oppose the location of this launch site. Lake Superior is immediately below the Granot Loma proposed site. There are many homes, including ours, within very close proximity.

We ask that you strongly consider these severely detrimental factors for residents of Powell Township, and our future generations. Irreversible damage is at stake.

Please include this message as public comment to be submitted at the Oct. 20th and 21st meetings.

Thank you,  
Jill & Richard Storm

Sent from my iPad



Reply all |  Delete |  Junk | 




Public comment submitted for your 10/20/2020 Township Board meeting and your 10/20/2020 Planning Commission meeting regarding Granot Loma rocket launch site.



Tim <rutkoske@ironbay.net>

Reply all | 

Today, 10:38 AM

Darlene Turner; phijomo@yahoo.com; Samantha Morin 

Inbox

Dear Ms. Turner, Mr. Moran, Ms. Leahy, and Ms. Morin,

We live at 186 County Road KR. Our house sits high above Lake Superior about a half mile away. Every day we are grateful for the lake beauty and the woods that border it. We are especially grateful of our township taking care of this priceless beauty for everyone to see.

We oppose the propose Granot Loma rocket launch site by the Michigan Manufacturing Association (MAMA) and the Marquette County Board. We feel the building and operation of such a site will have great negative environmental impact on the lake and the land, along with negative effects on the wildlife.

We hope you share our feelings and concerns in this regard and not make any quick decisions on this.

Please include this letter as public comment to be submitted at the October 20th and 21st meetings. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim & Ann Rutkoske

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This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>



🔄 Reply all | ▾ 🗑 Delete Junk | ▾ ...

## Granot Loma rocket launch site



Jeanne Groos <groos2011@gmail.com>

Yesterday, 2:33 PM

Darlene Turner; deb-clerk@powelltownship.org; phijomo@yahoo.com; Samantha I ▾

🔄 Reply all | ▾

Inbox

Public comment submitted for your 10/20/2020 Township Board meeting and your 10/21/2020 Planning Commission meeting regarding Granot Loma rocket launch site.

Dear Ms. Turner, Mr. Moran, and Ms. Leahy,

We have had a house on Saux Head Lake in Powell Township for ten years and have recently moved here to live year round. We are writing to express our extreme concern regarding the proposed Granot Loma rocket launch site. When weighing the pros and cons of such a venture, we cannot see any imaginable reason that any number of extra jobs in the area would compensate for the potential marked negative environmental impact on both the water and the land. These include, among other things: decrease in water quality, increase in water pollution, depletion of the ground water supply, increase in noise pollution, increase in land erosion, decrease in the amount of trees in the area, and potential effects on wildlife. I, (Jeanne), grew up in Marquette and never could have imagined the lakeshore being considered for such a purpose.

We feel that Lake Superior is a unique resource; we all are its guardians and need to consider long-term impacts of any industry close to the lake, out to many future generations. In addition to the above mentioned environmental effects, we need to ask ourselves if we are ready for possible evacuation zones, the threat of thousands of gallons of kerosene washing up on our beaches, and contamination from heavy metals or falling debris.

We are also concerned about the less than transparent way that this was studied and planned by the Michigan Aeronautics Manufacturing Association (MAMA) and the Marquette County Board. The initial comment that there was no opposition to this proposal makes sense, given that no one who would possibly oppose it was informed prior to the announcement.

Thank you for the willingness to impose a six month moratorium and not make any quick decisions on this. This lake is too precious to risk losing or hurting for any possible short term gain. We hope you share our feelings and concerns in this regard.

Please include this letter as public comment to be submitted at the Oct. 20th and 21st meetings.

Sincerely,

Fred Groos, MD  
Jeanne Taccolini Groos, MD

Reply all | Delete | Junk | ...



## Space Port Proposal



Daniel LaBar <northstarconservation@gmail.com>

Reply all |

Today, 11:12 AM

INFO@michman.org; ebonsall@marquette.edu; serbisch@mqtc.org; Darlene Ti

Inbox

Hello. I am a Marquette resident, life-long yoooper and passionate local business owner. I would like to make a few proposals regarding the Space Port in Powell Township. While it is exciting to bring quality jobs to our community, I have 2 main concerns about this project: destruction of wilderness and pollution.

The proposed building site sits on pristine undisturbed wilderness. I think it would be an ambitious and exciting goal to conserve over 1,000 acres of lakeshore wilderness for public access for every acre cut to make the launch pad. Public access to pristine nature can help folks of all socioeconomic backgrounds find serenity and mental well-being. I have identified two land parcels on Lake Superior that hold roughly 1,191 acres of pristine wilderness that are currently for sale. I have zero affiliation with the sellers and no financial interest in these properties. I propose that these lands (Listed as: MLS# 1102734, 1122316) be purchased as part of the Space Port project and be put into a Conservational Land Trust or be managed by the USDA Forest Service as Wilderness Backcountry Camping areas in the same capacity as the Sylvania Wilderness area in the Ottawa National Forest. It is an important consideration that we leave this land as pristine as possible and not to allow RVs, ORVs, Snowmobiles and the like here - I cannot stress this enough!! The goal is to offset emissions, conserve nature and create a space for people to connect with themselves and the serenity that can only be found in areas that don't allow combustion engines. These types of precious resources are rapidly being destroyed, and we owe it to future generations to keep some land "as is" so we can remember what things were like before humans colonized the world. These types of pristine recreation areas are why I and so many others love living in the UP. Having more of them will increase the desirability and livability of our communities for generations to come.

To address the potential pollution I think this project should include grant funding to the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve for them to test air and water quality in the area -- specifically the beaches at Wetmore's Landing and Little Presque Isle.

I am looking forward to hearing back.

Best,  
Daniel LaBar



## Marquette County Road Commission

1610 North Second Street  
Ishpeming, Michigan 49849

Phone: (906) 486-4491

Fax: (906) 486-4493

September 2, 2020

### Marquette County Townships

Subject: Annual HMA Paving Program

Annual Crack, Chip, & Fog Seal Programs & Annual Pavement Markings

In an effort to get better prices for HMA paving in Marquette County, we are planning to bid out the 2021 HMA paving and crack, chip & fog sealing early. We are also checking if any township is interested in having pavement markings placed on any of the local roads in their township. In order for us to prepare a compilation of work to be done and prepare and receive bids, we are requesting written notification of locations and interest from the townships at this time.

The road commission does not participate with the townships for HMA paving, crack, chip, and fog sealing, and pavement marking applications; the townships are required to cover 100% of the contractor's cost to perform the work. We will bid out the work and coordinate with the vendor and the township to get the requested work completed. There is an overhead rate applied by the MCRC of 8.5% (Maximum of \$1,500) for \$50,000 of pass through work and then 3% for any amount over \$50,000, which will be included in the contract between the road commission and the township. No overhead shall be charged on any work on the primary road system paid for by a township.

Therefore, at this time, we request that each township review their HMA paving, crack sealing & chip sealing, and pavement marking needs and request locations by **October 23, 2020**. We are anticipating that the HMA paving bids will be sent out to contractors in January with MCRC Board conditional award at the February meeting. Crack, chip & fog sealing will be bid out in the spring when contractors have an opportunity to inspect the roads. Pavement markings maps or list of roads is given to the contractor in May for completion by August 15<sup>th</sup>. When we have pricing information, we will provide contracts to the townships that are interested.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 486-4491 ext. 201.

Sincerely,

Kurt B. Taavola  
Director of Engineering

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William Luetzow, Chair  
David Hall, Member  
Raymond Roberts, Member  
James M. Iwanicki, P.E., Engineer-Manager  
Russell Williams, Vice-Chair  
Joseph Valente, Member

October 2020

Powell Township Roads

Rating for conditions and repair

#1 KE (Saux Head/Luma Farm) To be resurfaced 2020

#2 KF ( Squaw Beach ) 2021

#3 KCG (Homier Rd.) 2021

#4 KCD, KCE ( VFW ) KS (Mattis's Rd.) 2022

#5 KCB ( Lighthouse Rd) 2023 ?

#6 KA (Hungry Hallow Rd) ,KD (Dam ) 2024 ?

#7 Village Streets

Years after that would be for preventive repairs.

**Gravel Roads Fair to Good**

KD, KB, KEA, KN, KJ, KR, KI, KCF, KCC

Seasonal KT

**Roads Resurfaced :**

KCI (Halfway Fire hall )

KCH (Remington Rd)

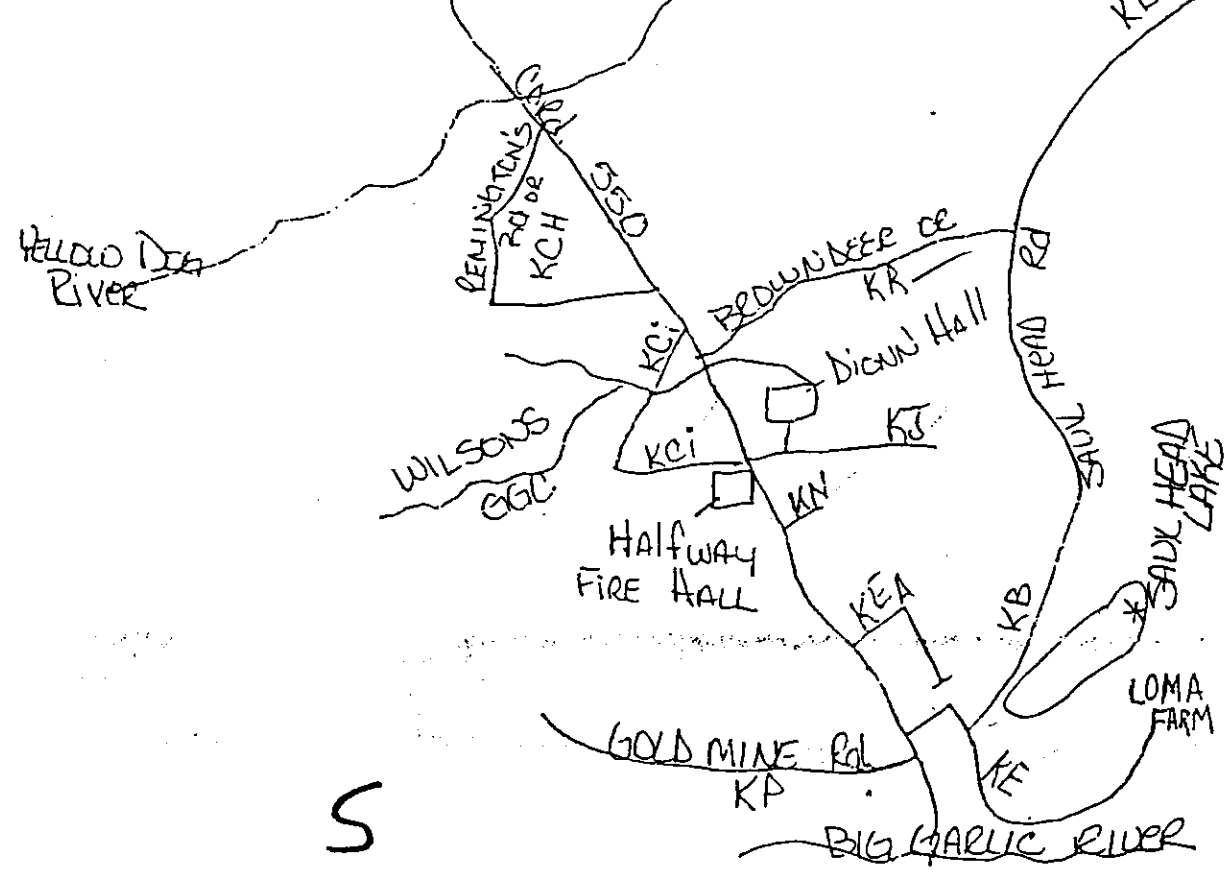
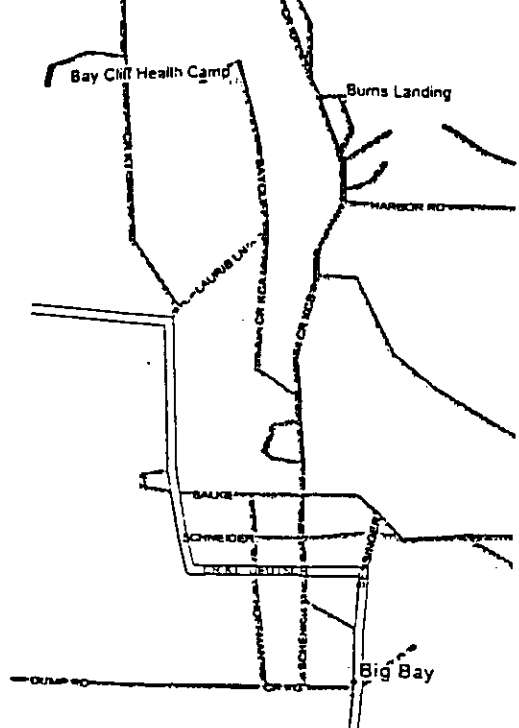
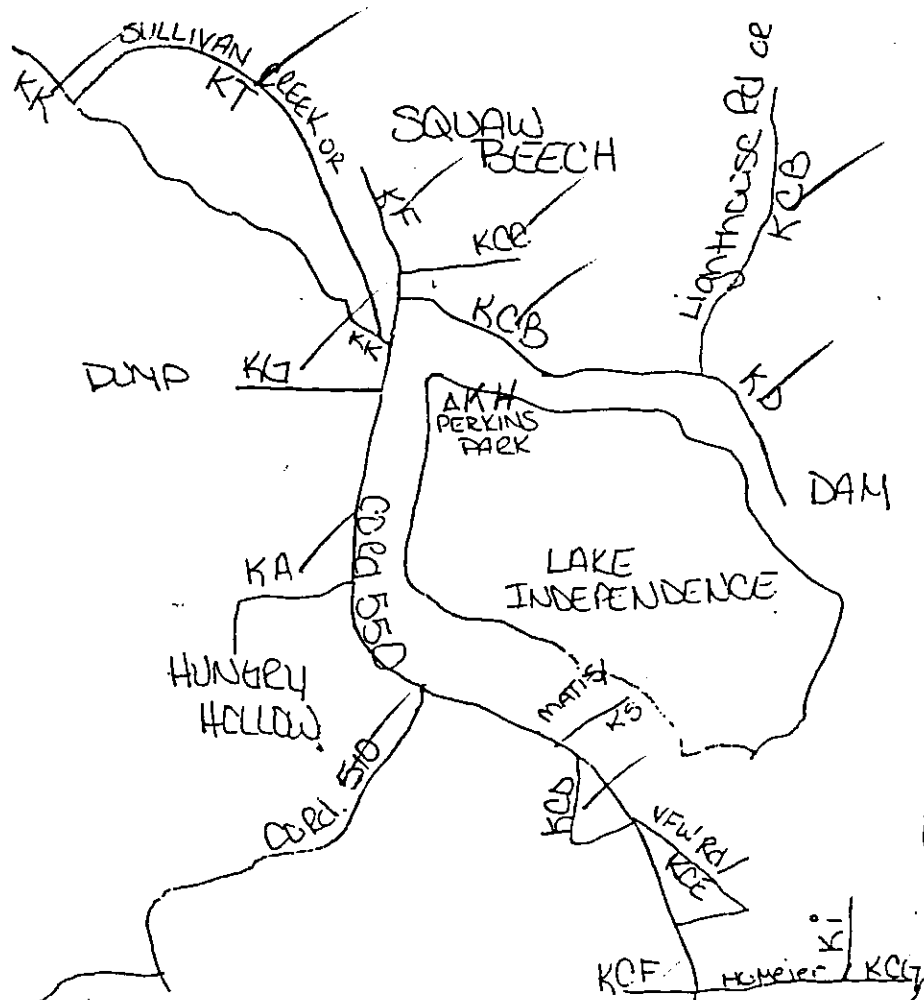
KG ( Dump Rd)

KK (Huron Mountain Club)

KCB ( Lake Independence /Lighthouse )

Balke Street

\* AUREN NATURAL GATE



Approved 10/26/20

**POWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
FROM THE DESK OF FIRE CHIEF CHRISTOPHER SUTTER  
PO BOX 319 BIG BAY, MI 49808  
(906) 345-9400

To the Powell Township Board

The Fire Department has located and inventoried a box of old portable radios that are no longer useable and 2 old Motorola pager chargers we no longer have pagers for. These are older generation "Brick style" radios from the 1980's to mid 1990's that are no longer compatible or useable with our current 800mhz radio system. There is no reason to keep them. We would like to request permission to destroy these items, there is no value in them to try and resell them. See attached inventory list.

This was approved at the 09/24/2020 FD Meeting

Sincerely,

Christopher Sutter  
Powell Township Fire Chief

