

TO THE ERSC MEMBERSHIP

As many of you know, Circuit Court Judge Phillip Rogers ruled last Friday, in favor of plaintiffs Carolyn Shah, et al, That the Township had 180 days to submit a Township approved plan for a public park, and following that, the Club would have thirty days to vacate the property which we currently occupy.

To say that the Club is disappointed is an understatement to say that we are mortally wounded is premature.

On Wednesday evening, January 19th, the ERSC Board of Directors met in closed session and reviewed the Club's options based on the opinions of the Attorneys involved with the case.

It was the unanimous decision of your Board, based upon those opinions, to authorize our legal counsel to proceed with an appeal in an effort to save your Club.

As intensely as we, and our Attorneys are working in this endeavor, we ask every member for their support, especially their financial support.

In the recent few months, members, non-members, organizations, and companies have stepped forward with their checks to help save the Club. This need is now even more acute. The alternative is to abandon everything that we, and many others before us, worked so hard for these past sixty-five years.

It is the carefully considered opinion of your Board and our attorney's that there are specific issues of law relative to the courts ruling which should be reviewed at the appellate level. Therefore the costs and expenses continue and it is necessary that your monetary support also continue.

The decision to proceed with an appeal was not taken lightly, nor was it simply a knee-jerk reaction to an adverse result. The matter was considered in depth and only after thorough scrutiny of all the facts and findings in the courts ruling was a unanimous decision made to proceed with such an appeal.

The loss of the Club would be a devastating blow to not just every recreational shooter, and hunter/sportsperson who uses the Club now, but to the entire community as a whole.

Without the Club, there will be no Hunter Safety program for our youth in the immediate area. The "Kid's fish Pond" will cease to be a huge event every June where hundreds of kids enjoy the pleasure of catching Trout, some for the first time.

Nearby homeowner groups will lose the facility for their annual meetings, and Law Enforcement, including most recently the Coast Guard will lose the ability to conduct their Training so essential for the our collective public safety.

Even in the face of this setback, we are undeterred in our commitment to the membership and the community that has supported us so much in the past.

We realize the road ahead is one with many hazards, but we must pursue the path that we feel is right.

The ruling by the court can be read in its entirety by linking to the ERSC site:<http://www.ersc.org/>

Donations to the legal defense fund can be sent to the Club at:

Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club,
P.O. Box 536
Elk Rapids, MI 49629-0536

Further information will be available through this list, and through the Club's newsletter.

For The Board of Directors.
Brian S Kroll
Chairman,
Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club.