

**NOTICE     NOVEMBER 15, 2023**

**From Montague Township**

**In Montague Township, as common in West Michigan, we have stands of red pine trees. There are two locations on Township land – at Clear Springs Nature Preserve and at the SE corner of Whitbeck and Skeels Roads – that have come to our attention. These pines are dying, and there is no remedy to save them.**

**There is a fungus that red pine can get that travels from root to root in red pines. This fungus, along with the weevils and beetles that eat this decay, are killing them.**

**We have been approached by a local forester who wants to take the red pine, healthy ones and diseased. His foreman walked the woods with us and pointed out the affected trees. He has offered our Township a downpayment for the trees, and will pay the remainder after taking them to sell.**

**If we do nothing, the trees will continue to die. And once dead they will become dangerous, useless poles. And worthless for any forester – we would then have to pay THEM to come and take them down. The Township is not seeking to do this for the financial gain. We are trying to be proactive in forest management. They only wish to take the red pine – nothing else. Obviously, this is a decision we are careful to make. But our actions should benefit those in the years to come.**

**We will make our decision at our next meeting, December 12. If you have any questions, you can call the hall on Tuesdays 10-4 at 231-894-4414 or Tracy Korthase, Treasurer at 231-730-5848. Or send us a note in writing to 8915 Whitbeck Road Montague or [tkorthase@montaguetownship.com](mailto:tkorthase@montaguetownship.com).**