

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Grand Haven Charter Township  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Log Cabin Partners, LLC Agree to \$27,500 Tree Cutting Fine**

**Grand Haven Township, Michigan, April 17, 2006.**

Grand Haven Charter Township agreed to accept a fine of \$27,500 from Log Cabin Partners, LLC for a tree clearing violation that occurred on September 12, 2006 during which 517 trees with a diameter of 8 inches or greater were illegally cut down.

Under the terms of the settlement agreement, Log Cabin Partners agreed to the following:

1. To pay a \$27,500 fine to the Township.
2. To reimburse all of the Township's costs and legal fees, which are currently estimated at \$20,000.
3. To issue a public apology that acknowledges violating the Township's Overlay District Ordinance, which apology shall take the form of a press release.
4. To remove all of the felled trees within 45 days.
5. To submit a remediation plan that will replace trees within a thirty-five foot strip around the perimeter of the property by June 15, 2007.
6. To submit future remediation plans as part of any future site plan approval that would

replace trees within the interior of the property that would not have been removed during the property's future development. And,

7. To pay for any future Township legal bills should the Township be forced to go to court to seek compliance with the settlement agreement.

“Grand Haven Charter Township is satisfied with the settlement,” Township Supervisor Joanne Marcetti said. “But, we are unhappy that we were forced to go to such extremes to seek compliance with the tree removal provisions of the Overlay District.”

“Our goal with any ordinance enforcement action is to seek compliance without having to resort to fines or court actions,” Marcetti noted. “The Township only moves towards a punitive approach if the property owner refuses to cooperate or comply with the rules.”

“The Overlay District allows for the removal of trees as part of any approved site plan,” Marcetti explained. “The rules are not expected to preserve all of the trees on any parcel,” Marcetti continued. “But, if the developer chooses to clear-cut and remove all the trees prior to development site plan approval the Townships' ability to save as many trees as possible is eliminated. This may be a minor difference, but remember one of the key purposes of the Overlay District is to preserve the quality of life and the property values of **all** owners in the Township.”

“Now that this unpleasantness has been put behind us, the Township is looking forward to working with the property owners to ensure that a high quality development can be constructed on this parcel of property,” Marcetti concluded.

The four members of Log Cabin Partners, LLC, a Michigan Limited Liability Company, are Daniel Dykgraaph, Gary Genzink, Wade Slagh, and Charles Gebben.

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