

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Minutes

Attending: Chair Harry Pulliam, Dana Emmerton, Mark Pernitz, Kelly Ruschman, and Jason Neton (arrived at 6:07 PM)

Absent: Mona Sue French and Chris Narveson

Also Attending: Joe Jacobson: resident

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chair Pulliam at 6:04 PM.
2. **Proof of Posting:** Clerk-Treasurer Wright attested to proper proof of posting.
3. **Approve September 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes** – Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Commissioner Ruschman; second by Commissioner Pernitz. Motion carried 4-0.
4. **Public Comments:** Joe Jacobson, resident on Windmill Ridge Road, introduced himself. He and his wife Wendy have owned their three parcels and home for about eight years. They purchased the 50+ acre prairie last year, which they continue to restore. Their land abuts Blue Bird Ridge Conservancy (BBRC). There followed a brief discussion of a neighbor to the property, Todd Argall who is a member of the Prairie Enthusiasts and Blanchardville resident Stephen Fabos of Indigenous Restorations. Chair Pulliam provided a brief history of the BBRC and its restoration. He introduced the members of the Commission who were present as well as those who were unable to attend this evening.
5. **Discuss Donation to The Prairie Enthusiasts, with Possible Increase** – Chair Pulliam reported that the Commission donated \$250 to the Enthusiasts in 2021. Chair Pulliam recommends increasing the donation from the Commission to \$300-\$325 this year. There followed a brief discussion of the reorganization and centralization of the Enthusiasts; this may prevent targeting the donation directly to the local chapter. Without objection, further research will be conducted before taking further action. This item will be placed on the November agenda. Without objection, Commissioner Neton will reach out to Tom Mitchell of the Prairie Enthusiasts. There followed a brief discussion regarding maintenance of the BBRC, including removal of trees.
6. **Provide Update on October 12, 2022, CORP Public Hearing** – Chair Pulliam reported that following the Public Hearing, the Board adopted the updates to the CORP by the resolution included in tonight's packet. Pulliam summarized the process for updating the Plan (including a community survey and public workshop) and the frequency for its renewal as well as the need for it to be consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan.
7. **Discuss Prairie Workshop** – Commissioner Emmerton has received some information regarding sources for native seeds, but has not progressed with plans for a workshop. Commissioner Neton thought the group could consider incorporating this workshop into the related one to be discussed under item 9. If it is kept as a separate event, it could be scheduled for March or May of 2023; without objection.
8. **Discuss Seeding of Prairie Plants at Blue Bird Ridge Conservancy (BBRC) after Next Fall Burn** – Chair Pulliam provided an update regarding the reseeded of the parcel the Town accepted along Durst Road as part of the agreement with the Village for the

Arn development within their ETZ. The pollinator mix has germinated and appears to be well-established.

9. **Continue Discussion of Controlled Burn/Invasive Species Workshop and Possible Locations** – Commissioner Neton reported that Fil Sanna is scheduled to speak. He and his partner have purchased land in Dane County, north of New Glarus. Most of the property has been donated to the Driftless Area Land Conservancy. Sanna is the lead site steward of the Spring Valley Tract; he hopes to work with the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) to develop trails on the property. Matt Wallrath, the Invasive Species Program Manager for the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association has also agreed to speak at this event. Neton is still awaiting confirmation from Jason Granberg, and invasive plant specialist from the Wisconsin DNR, that he is available to speak as well. The date of the event will be February 25, 2023. Without objection, Commissioner Neton will reach out to Steve Longo, the owner of Tofflers Pub and Grill to confirm the upstairs space is available on that date (possibly between 1-3 PM) and can accommodate fifty participants. There followed a brief discussion of community gardens and the possibility of coordinating with Emily Steinwehe of Wisconsin Food Forests in 2023 for public programming.
10. **Continue Discussion of 2-4 PM, April 8, 2023, River Tripping Workshop** – no discussion.
11. **Confirm Date of November 5 or November 19, 2022 for eCycle Event** – Commissioner Narveson was unable to attend this evening. The event has been scheduled for November 19, 2022; John Schumacher is available on this date. There followed a brief discussion regarding how best to advertise the eCycle and tree sale events.
12. **Discuss Fall 2022 Tree Sale** – Chair Pulliam would like to utilize Sustainable Wildlife Habitats (SWH) again this year as the source of trees for the annual sale; without objection. Mycorrhizal root dip can be ordered through the Green County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) unless Sustainable Wildlife Habitats has that for sale as well. Without objection, Mike Blackburn will be contacted regarding the availability of this product. Members reviewed the static list from SWH included in the packet as well the online list: <https://sustainablewildlifehabitats.com/Products>. Commissioner Neton noted that prices for LWCD are more consistent at \$3.00 apiece when ordering a minimum of ten, making sales potentially simpler to the public. There followed a discussion of the species offered for sale last year and what to offer this year at a price of \$4.50 apiece. After discussion, the consensus was to order from Green County: Quaking Aspen, White Oak, Norway Spruce, and Red Crabapple; and to order from SWH: Tamarack, Dawn Redwood, tree tubes, and root dip. We will charge \$4.00/tree for all trees; \$5.00 for tree tubes and root dip. Neton will prepare a mailer and coordinate the printing and mailing of it. The mailer will include information regarding the upcoming election and the eCycle event on Nov. 19.
Motion by Commissioner Pernitz to authorize the payment of the cost of printing and mailing the mailer up to \$750; second by Commissioner Emmerton; motion carried.
13. **Plan Fall Mailer to Include Information on eCycle Event, Tree Sale, and Other Programs** – Commissioner Neton noted that the mailer last year was printed on two sides of letter-sized paper that was a trifold design. It contained information about upcoming workshops and elections on the flip side of information about options for the tree sale. Without objection, Commissioner Neton will check in with Beth Karr to see if she is still interested in helping to design the layout of publications and mailings. Commissioner

Ruschman believes, at this time, any newsletter will need to include content produced by the Parks Commission.

14. **Discuss Sign for Side of Town Hall** – Commissioner Neton recommended printing a larger poster to promote these events to post in the bulletin board on the south side of the Town Hall that is currently not in use. Neton will check on the cost of a poster. Discussion of sign deferred to next meeting.
15. **Schedule Next Meeting** – the next meeting will be held on November 16, 2022 at 6:00 PM.
16. **Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pernitz; second by Commissioner Emmerton. Motion carried 5-0 at 7:28 PM.

Approved: November 16, 2022


Minutes transcribed by Clerk/Treasurer Wright