

# PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Minutes

**Attending:** Chair Harry Pulliam, Kelly Ruschman, Dana Emmerton, Mark Pernitz, Chris Narveson, Mona Sue French, and Jason Neton (arrived at 6:07 PM)

**Absent:** None

**Also Attending:** John Wright (departed at 6:15 PM): Clerk Treasurer; Shahnaz Shahidain: Village of New Glarus resident; Grace McLaughlin: Town of New Glarus resident; Matt Wallrath: Outreach for the UW Department of Plant and Agroecosystems Sciences; Stephen Fabos: Indigenous Restorations, LLC; and Matt Stelter (departed at 6:40 PM): SEO and Content Marketing Manager for Colony Brands

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chair Pulliam at 6:00 PM.
- 2. Proof of Posting:** Clerk-Treasurer Wright attested to proper proof of posting.
- 3. Approve Minutes from July 19, 2023**  
Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Pernitz; seconded by Commissioner French. Motion carried 6-0.
- 4. Public Comments** – Chair Pulliam introduced Matt Wallrath and Stephen Fabos, who were in attendance. A number of questions were asked of these two guests regarding the best strategy for restoring portions of the State Highway 39 property to native prairie. Mr. Fabos recommended continuing to lease the property until such time that seed can be purchased. Another alternative would be to seed the site for alfalfa, a perennial, or rye grass (an annual) to reduce the possibility of invasive species proliferation.
- 5. Discussion with Matt Stelter about Tree Stands within the Town Park** – Deer hunting season will run from September 16, 2023 (archery and crossbow first) until January 7, 2024. Mr. Stelter has provided some management of the trails and grassy areas along the Legler School Branch. His six deer stands have been in place for a decade with the permission of the former owners. It was agreed that the stands could remain during the current season. Commission members will let Mr. Stelter know when groups will be on the property. There will be a workshop on the site, October 28, 2023.
- 6. Discuss Hunting Policy for New Town Park** – Without objection, signs will be posted to notify the public that no hunting will be allowed without permission.
- 7. Updates on Town Board Action Regarding Ordinance 2023-03 to Codify the Town of New Glarus Park Commission** – The Board approved the ordinance to create Chapter 204 of the Town’s Code of Ordinances. A summary of the ordinance will be published on August 24, 2023 in the Post Messenger Recorder and will be effective the next day.
- 8. Discussion with Shahnaz Shahidain about Orchard Project with Green County Leaders** – Ms. Shahidain reported that she has a Community Project Proposal Form for Green County Leaders. She will complete the application and will submit it after Chair Pulliam reviews and approves; without objection. The deadline to submit the application is September 13, 2023. There followed a discussion regarding possible crowdfunding to raise money for resources such as prairie seeds. A proposal will be drafted to share with the Park Commission members to identify the objectives of an orchard on Town property.
- 9. Update on Town Proposal to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to Transfer the Grant for a Trail along County Highway NN to State Highway 39** – Matt

Miller from Vierbicher submitted materials to Cheryl Housley, Wisconsin DNR, on July 24, 2023. There is a meeting scheduled on August 28, 2023 with Michelle Brokaw, a representative from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, to discuss the cattle pass beneath State Highway 39. The Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop #106 will send an updated letter to reflect their willingness to maintain the trail in the new location; that should be received this weekend.

10. **Update on Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Award** – The Town received an email from Cheryl Housley earlier today that the application score was ineligible for funding. 95 project applications were received statewide.
11. **Discuss Progress on Establishment of Friends Group for Town Park** – no report.
12. **Begin 2024 Budget Discussion and Review 2023 Budget-to-Actual; Amend Budget for Ad Expenses** – Motion to amend the 2023 budget for added expenses for printing (\$225) with the Monroe School District and inserts into the Buyer's Guide (\$149) was made by Commissioner Pernitz; seconded by Commissioner Ruschman. Motion carried 7-0.
13. **Plan Fall Workshops and Events**
  - a. Pollinator Workshop at Hidden Knoll with Micah Kloppenburg of Xerces Society (6 PM, Friday, August 25, 2023) – An insert will be included in the Buyer's Guide Shopper.
  - b. Invasives Removal Talk and workday at Town Park with Matt Wallrath – this event will be held at the new Town park on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM. Participants should bring shovels and loppers. Participants should avoid parking on the recently sold property associated with the home and outbuildings. Invasives will be flagged for removal.
  - c. Seed Collecting Workshop at Bluebird Ridge Conservancy on Windmill Ridge Road with Matt Sheaffer of Taylor Creek Nursery will take place on Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 1:00 PM.
  - d. Walk the Park with local supporters – Further discussion will be deferred to the September meeting, without objection.
  - e. Fall eCycle Event – This will be held at the Town Hall, 26 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New Glarus on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023 from 9:00 AM until Noon.
  - f. Fall Tree Sale – See the schedule above.
  - g. Bow Hunting Workshop with Ian Munnoch – This workshop will be deferred until 2024, without objection.
14. **Plan Outreach to Community**
  - a. Recommendations for workshops – without objection, this will be deferred until the September meeting.
  - b. Scouts, 4-H, High School students – without objection, this will be deferred until the September meeting.
15. **Schedule Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM.
16. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Pernitz; seconded by Neton at 7:40 PM. Motion carried.

Approved: September 20, 2023

Minutes transcribed from C. Narveson notes