

## PARK COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Minutes

**Attending:** Chair Harry Pulliam, Kelly Ruschman, Mark Pernitz, Chris Narveson, Mona Sue French, Jason Neton, and Rose Pertzborn: alternate commissioner

**Absent:** Dana Emmerton

**Also Attending:** Shahnaz Shahidain: Village of New Glarus resident

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chair Pulliam at 6:01 PM.
2. **Proof of Posting:** Chris Narveson, Town Chair, attested to proper proof of posting.
3. **Approve Minutes from August 16, 2023**  
Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Pernitz; seconded by Commissioner Ruschman. Motion carried 7-0.
4. **Public Comments** – No public comments.
5. **Discuss and Possibly Consider Action to Request Town Board Permission to Transfer Money from Sinking Fund to Certificate of Deposit** – After brief discussion, action was deferred until the October meeting. The account balances for each Impact Fee is needed to decide and whether there is a penalty for early withdrawal if money is needed for the STH 39 trail that is to be relocated along State Highway 39.
6. **Continue 2024 Budget Discussion** – There was no discussion. Without objection, this item will be deferred until the October meeting.
7. **Update on the Town Proposal to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to Transfer the Grant for a Trail along County Highway NN to State Highway 39** – Commissioners Pernitz and Narveson reported on a recent Zoom meeting with Wisconsin DOT and Wisconsin DNR representatives. WisDOT will not approve usage of the cattle underpass for the proposed trail but will allow an at-grade crossing of State Highway 39. With this agreement from the DOT, the DNR has approved the transfer of the grant funding from CTH NN to the Highway 39 trail. Vierbicher is currently working on plans and construction will take place in spring 2024. Alternate Commissioner Pertzborn discussed the possibility that University of Wisconsin graduate students could provide some planning expertise for the future Town park. Without objection, those possible concepts will be presented at the October meeting.
8. **Continue Discussion of Invasives on Soil Pile at New Town Park and of Cover Crop This Fall** – Commissioner Narveson reported that Town Patrolperson Ronald Roesslein will remove weeds from the soil pile at the STH 39 site. Once the current crops are harvested this fall, Elliott Jacob Buol, the farmer who currently leases a portion of the property, will plant winter wheat, in exchange for a reduced lease rate, as a cover crop. In June or July of 2024, after the winter wheat is harvested, Narveson recommends we plant this area with DOT prairie mix. The cost would be about \$500 per acre.
9. **Discuss Update on Green County Leaders Project Proposal** – Ms. Shahidain reported that projects will be selected at the September 27, 2023 meeting of the Green County Leaders. Ms. Shahidain will present her orchard project at that time.
10. **Discuss Hunting and Trapping Policy and Signage to Recommend to the Town Board** – There was a brief discussion on the topic.

After discussion, motion by Commissioner Pernitz, second by Commissioner Neton to recommend to the Town Board that hunting and trapping at the Town Park be by permit only and that Matt Stelter be permitted to hunt this season. Motion carried 7-0.

11. **Discuss Progress on Establishment of Friends Group for Town Park – Rose, Jason, Mona Sue, Kelly** – There was no discussion. Without objection, this item will be deferred until the January, 2024 meeting. Neton will talk to the Town Clerk about developing an email list of Town residents to publicize various topics. Narveson suggested that we request Town residents to supply the clerk with their email addresses when the annual garbage collection calendar is distributed.
12. **Town Board Action to Appoint Rose Pertzborn as Alternate to Park Commission** – No discussion.
13. **Continued Discussion of Name for Park** – There was no discussion. Without objection, this item will be deferred until the January, 2024 meeting.
14. **Report on Seed Collection Workshop Held on September 9, 2023** – There was good turnout at the workshop, with 10-12 people attending. The Bluebird Ridge Prairie is looking good. Some lead plants were observed which are an indicator of a healthy prairie.
15. **Discuss Need for Burn and Work on Invasives at BBRC** – Chair Pulliam suggested getting an estimate to remove invasive species. Narveson suggested we paint the areas with invasives to be removed and the Town Patrolperson can do this with the mini excavator.
16. **Plan Fall Workshops and Events**
  - a. Fall eCycle event (Saturday, October 14, 2023) – Commissioners Ruschmann, Narveson, and French will be able to attend and assist Monroe e-Waste.
  - b. Invasives Removal Workshop (Saturday, October 28, 2023) – Commissioner French volunteered the use of their UTV which will be transported to the site by trailer. Commissioner Ruschman will contact Matt Belnap at the high school to see if students wish to participate to fulfill their service hours.
  - c. Walk the Park with local supporters – Without objection, members of the New Glarus Town Board/Village Board, Village Park Commission, Town Plan Commission, and Boy Scout and Girl Scout troop leaders should be invited to walk the site at 1:00 PM on November 4, 2023. The Clerk-Treasurer will distribute the email invitations.
17. **Plan Outreach to Community**
  - a. Recommendations for 2024 workshops – Bow Hunting with Ian Munnoch and ~ Matt Stelter? – Without objection, this item will be deferred to the October meeting agenda.
  - b. Scouts, 4-H, High School students – Without objection, this item will be deferred to the October meeting agenda.
18. **Schedule Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 6:00 PM.
19. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Pernitz; seconded by Commissioner French at 7:37 PM. Motion carried.

Approved: October 18, 2023

Transcribed from notes taken by Commissioner Narveson and Commissioner Pernitz