

Town of New Glarus
26th Fifth Avenue
New Glarus, WI 53574

Town Road Construction Plans

Once the location is determined, the Town will construct a road to our future Town garage and install a parking lot for Town Park use. We plan on tree trimming and tree removals on Marty Road, Zentner Road, Disch Road and parts of Farmers Grove Road. Please note that trees along properties on the route belong to the landowner. If a resident wants the wood from their trees, they need to notify our Patrolman, Ron Roesslein (608) 558-4965. The wood will be chunked in 8-foot lengths and delivered to the landowner or removed entirely from the roadway.

We will be chipping the wood as we go and will not be burning onsite as we have in the past. Marty Road will be worked on this summer with ditching beginning from the south and moving to the north. Any dirt removed will be stockpiled at our new Town Park site (as per State Statute). This road will be patched and seal coated this year. Other roads for patching and chip seal are Klassy Road and all of Blue Vista subdivision. This is a partial list of summer work and additional roads will be selected in April when the board does a complete road review.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Tuesday, February 27th – 6:00 PM

Community input night for master park plan at the Town Hall. Meet with professional planners and share your ideas for the new Town Park.

Tuesday, April 2nd - 7AM to 8PM

Spring Election – Town Hall

Town Board

- Chris Narveson (Chair)
- Matt Streiff
- Jim Hoesly
- Troy Pauli
- Robert Elkins

Planning Commission

- Chris Narveson (Chair)
- Robert Elkins
- John Freitag
- Craig Galhouse
- John Ott
- Mark Pernitz
- Reg Reis

Park Commission

- Harry Pulliam (Chair)
- Chris Narveson
- Jason Neton
- Mark Pernitz
- Mona Sue French
- Kelly Ruschman
- Dana Emmerton
- Rose Pertzborn (alt)

FEBRUARY 2024

ISSUE #1

Town of New Glarus

Newsletter



From the Town Chair - Chris Narveson

From time-to-time, the Town supervisors have heard comments from Town residents that they were not aware of something that was going on. While much information is posted on the Town's website, including agendas and minutes from all Town meetings, we recognize that not everyone makes use of these resources. Consequently, and in an effort to keep Town residents more fully advised of what is going on in the Town, the Town board decided to begin sending out semi-annual newsletters, in spring and in fall, to alert residents of what has been and is happening in the Township.

This is our inaugural edition. As such, it is a work in progress. Expect improvements. We welcome your constructive comments and suggestions on how we can make it better, what information you would like to see in it, topics you might like covered, and even your own submissions. Send comments and suggestions to editor@townofnewglarus.com

It's an exciting time! There have been a lot of things happening lately and we will attempt to bring you up to date on these in this newsletter.



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Town Hall Business

There will be changes in the Town office this year. Our Clerk, John Wright, will be retiring sometime this year. We are currently interviewing candidates for a new clerk/treasurer. John has agreed to help train the new clerk/treasurer before he retires to assure a smooth transition.

We are planning an ATV/UTV binding referendum for the fall election. Whichever way the vote goes will determine if the Town of New Glarus will be open for ATV/UTV traffic or not.

Town of New Glarus Park and Future Town Garage



At a special meeting of the electorate held on November 28, 2022, the Town residents in attendance voted to authorize the Town to purchase a 97-acre farm located at W6599 STH 39 (the “Hayes Farm”), west of the Village of New Glarus. The Town had been looking for several years to purchase about 20 acres of land to build a new Town garage to replace the current one that was built in 1978 and is not up to code. While searching for suitable property, the Town located a local resident willing to sell the entire farm to the Town. This additional land will allow the Town to create its first park as well as to preserve a pristine piece of property!

Subsequently, the Town closed on the purchase of the farm. In early summer, 2023, the Town sold the existing house, barn and 12 acres. The proceeds of this sale are being used as reserves and earmarked for the Town garage construction. In the spring, 2023 the Town applied for a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant for the purchase of the park, but we were ranked 3rd and only 2 projects were funded. Consequently, the Town is exploring the option of selling off a couple of residential lots to help fund the construction of the Town garage.

The Town has hired our town engineer/planning firm to help plan where to locate the Town garage, and potential future Town hall, on the property. Once this is determined, a road and parking area will be constructed. We anticipate this to happen this summer.



At the request of the Town Park Commission, the Town also hired our town planner to work on a master park plan. This master plan will guide the location, and timing, of various improvements to the park property. Potential uses that have been suggested are hiking trails, prairie land, a community orchard, a community garden, pickleball courts, a picnic area and so forth. The master plan will also identify the location of the residential lots which may be sold. The planning process includes public meetings and your input to this planning is encouraged. **The Community Input Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27th at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.** You can always consult the Town website for notice of when these meetings are scheduled.



Town Plan Commission

The Town Plan Commission has also been involved with the Town Park in reviewing both the plans for the sale of the house and barn as well as the potential sale of the residential lots. The Plan Commission is tasked with administering the Town's land use plan and ensuring that all proposed developments comply with the Town's land use ordinances. Under state law, a town's land use plan must be updated every 10 years. The Town's plan must be updated by 2028. However, some of the open space provisions need updates this year and The Plan Commission is currently reviewing this. Under the current rules, there are 2 options for residential land divisions: large lot development which requires 35 acres of land for 1 lot; or a cluster lot development that allows 3 lots per 40 acres of land with conditions. These rules have been working well and there doesn't appear to be support for changing them. There will be public hearings on any revisions and your participation is encouraged. Again, please consult the Town's website for notice of these public hearings.

Town Park Commission

As you can imagine with a new park on the horizon, there is a lot going on with the Parks Commission. In addition to working on the park master plan, a subgroup, the Restoration Committee, is working with the farmer who is currently farming the land, and professionals, to develop a plan to gradually restore the approximately 50 acres of cropland to prairie. Because of residual herbicides, the actual seeding won't begin until 2025. The preliminary plan is to convert 10 acres of cropland each year to prairie by creating 30 ft. wide contour prairie strips. The land was planted in winter wheat last fall. The cropland will continue to be farmed until the prairie restoration can be completed to avoid having the land taken over by weeds.

Plans are in process to restore a 5-acre parcel that hasn't been farmed and which is located near the south end of the property. The Commission is consulting with ecological restoration professionals about this work. The Park Commission sponsored a public walking tour of the property on November 4. It was a great success with approximately 40 people, including Town and Village officials, taking part. One exciting part of the day is that several prairie enthusiasts identified an approximately 1.5 acre "remnant prairie" in the northwest portion of the property. A "remnant prairie" is a prairie that still exists in its natural state and is somewhat rare to find. On October 28th 2023, the Parks Commission sponsored an invasive species workshop at the Town hall and also at the Town Park property. Leaders from the Upper Sugar River Watershed provided guidance and instruction on identifying invasive species and how to remove them. You can see a picture of two of the high school volunteers above.

The Park Commission has also sponsored a new "Friends of the Town Park" group to assist with park planning, trail development, prairie restoration and other park activities. If you are interested in joining this group, please send an email to friendsofnewglarusparks@gmail.com with your name, contact information, and any particular areas of interest.

New County Highway Shop

As a result of code issues, the County also needed to purchase land for a new County Highway shop. The County purchased land on STH 39 just west of Bailey's Run near the Bug Tussel Wireless tower. The benefit of having the County Highway shop in the Town of New Glarus is increased emergency response to our citizens for both accidents and snowplowing. The Town held a public hearing on the land division as required by law. There were some concerns expressed regarding the land subdivision by residents of a neighboring subdivision.

The nice thing about the public hearing is it allows for open dialog on the land division. The issue raised was potential water runoff directed through a waterway on their land as well as the shop being too close to their subdivision to the south. The County listened to their concerns and believes it can locate the shop closer to Hwy 39 than the initial plans called for. In addition, almost all of the water runoff from the retention pond will be directed north to Hwy 39 and not to the south further addressing the concerns. The project is expected to begin in early summer.

Town Clerk

John Wright (608) 527-2390

Email: clerk@townofnewglarus.com

Town Hall Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 6 am-2 pm

Friday – closed to the public