

PARK COMMISSION MEETING

July 17, 2024

Minutes

Attending: Harry Pulliam (Chair), Kelly Ruschman, Mark Pernitz, Chris Narveson, Jason Neton (arrived at 6:08 PM), and Mona Sue French (arrived at 6:20 PM)

Absent: Rose Pertzborn

Also attending: John Wright: Clerk-Treasurer; Shahnaz Shahidain: Village of New Glarus resident, and Frank Grenzow: Town of New Glarus resident,

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Pulliam called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.
2. **Proof of Posting** – Clerk Treasurer Wright attested to proper proof of posting.
3. **Approve Minutes**
 - a. June 19, 2024 – A motion to approve the June 19, 2024 regular minutes as presented, was made by Commissioner Narveson; seconded by Commissioner Pernitz. Motion carried, 4-0.
 - b. June 26, 2024 – A motion to approve the June 26, 2024 special minutes as presented, was made by Commissioner Pernitz; seconded by Commissioner Ruschman. Motion carried, 4-0.
4. **Public Comments** – Shahnaz Shahidain stated that she was impressed by the adopted Master Park Plan. Chair Pulliam reported that Kim Seffrood of Everything's Possible Foundation had requested a draft copy of the Town Master Park Plan from Town staff. Pulliam stated that the two chatted by phone this morning. The group historically has partnered with municipalities to assist with playground equipment.
5. **Report on Town Board Approval of Master Park Plan on July 10, 2024** – Chair Pulliam reported that the Board approved the Plan at their regular meeting last week. It was noted that there was one amendment to the Plan to designate the north/south trail for biking/hiking, likely to be constructed of crushed limestone, some sections may possibly be paved where washing due to stormwater might occur, and the option of mowed grass paths.
6. **Update on Prairie Restoration at Town Park** – Commissioner Neton reported that he has spoken with Jasmine Wyant, the invasives specialist with the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association regarding possible vendor choices. He contacted Agrecol (Evansville), who specialize in native seeds. This vendor works in conjunction with other services, including Heartland Ecological Group (Mount Horeb). Neton's point of contact has been Jeff Kraemer, the Vice President of the organization. The preferred method for seeding is broadcasting although the drilling method is an available option. The cost per acre includes three years of management by their team. According to Neton, Applied Ecological Services (Brodhead) is another option. They were acquired by Resource Environmental Solutions (RES, Bellaire, TX) in 2021. Terence Ruane is Neton's point of contact. Neton will be meeting with Kristina Weld, a project manager from Quercus Land Stewardship Services (Black Earth) Thursday, August 1, 2024 at 3:30 PM at the Town property. Chair Pulliam reported that he has spoken with a representative from Adaptive Restoration (Mount Horeb).

Commissioner Neton's goal is to set up meetings with vendors and all members are welcome to attend. Chair Pulliam recommended that once dates and times are established, to share the information with Town Hall staff so they can distribute the information to Park Commission members. There followed a brief discussion regarding parking at the Town property on State Highway 39. Commissioner Neton stated that he has yet to reach out to Tall Grass Restoration (Milton), Good Oak Ecological Services (Madison), Eco-Resource Consulting (Stoughton), or Field & Stream Restorations (Cottage Grove). Commissioner Ruschman confirmed that Elliot Buol will establish a cover crop after harvesting winter wheat this year.

7. **Update on Decision by Town Board re: Grant for Trail along Hwy 39 –**

Commissioner Narveson stated that he and Commissioner Pernitz have spoken with Cheryl Housley about adoption of the Master Park Plan and the amendment to accommodate an internal trail or trails within the Park property in order to transfer the grant previously awarded to the Town. Tim Schleeper of Vierbicher and Associates referred to a draft plan of trails that was not available to share within the packet or with the group present. A north/south trail is expected to be ten feet in width. Those present at the meeting reviewed the Path Types map within the adopted Master Park Plan. Commissioner Pernitz advocated including as many grassy trails into the proposal with for the DNR as possible. It was noted that an archaeological survey is required when the soil is disturbed below plow depth and would likely only apply to sections of the proposed north/south trail. Clerk-Treasurer Wright reported that he has heard back from Phil Salkin of Archaeological Consulting and Services that he is available to conduct a survey, when requested. It was further noted that Elliot Buol is flexible regarding planting/harvesting/spraying based on decisions made by the Town.

Commissioner Narveson stated that the Town needs to erect a fence to separate the Town property from the farmette. Narveson noted that Vierbicher will be refining the concept, but that a contractor will define the actual methods and layout based on the slope and soil depth. There followed a brief discussion of the possibility of blasting and crushing stone on site. Commissioner Pernitz stated that paths/trails to the north should possibly be deferred until buildings are erected. Pernitz provided a brief report regarding his conversations with Dennis Haak and the needs of the cross country team of Monticello/New Glarus. There followed a brief discussion regarding the need for limited vehicular access to maintain the passive recreational resources/orchard/pavilion that are proposed.

8. **Discuss and Consider Invasives Removal and Seeding at Bluebird Ridge –**

Commissioner Neton stated that he has yet to reconnect with Steve Fabos of Indigenous Restorations. Without objection, further discussion of this topic will be deferred until the August meeting.

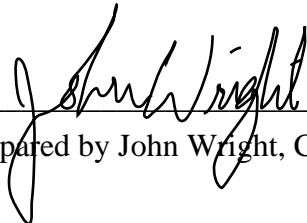
9. **Discuss Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin Grant Application –** Chair Pulliam reported that Rose has constraints upon her availability to assist him. Ruschman and Wright volunteered to assist, if requested.

10. **Annual Tree Sale Income and Expenses Report –** Clerk-Treasurer Wright presented the income minus refunds and expenses. The remaining balance is \$779.90. He noted that the mailed flyer for the sale was paid for in 2023 at a cost of \$500.

Motion to apply \$279.90 of the surplus funds towards 2025 costs was made by Commissioner Pernitz; seconded by Commissioner Ruschman. Discussion: Chair Pulliam wondered whether the \$500 expense paid in 2023 should also include some publication costs that might total approximately the \$779.90 profit reported this year. Commissioner Pernitz retracted his motion to which Ruschman agreed. Clerk-Treasurer Wright was instructed to provide the actual costs to the group for the August meeting. Without objection, further action and discussion will be deferred until the August meeting.

11. **Updated 2024 Budget to Actual** – Wright presented the updated account balances, including the interest earned on the Certificate of Deposit. Wright does not have attendance information for ad hoc meetings, walkabouts, community input, or focus group meetings. If members are to be paid, he will need attendance information and confirmation of dates. The minimum amount to be deposited to a Park sinking fund may need to be reduced. After brief discussion, it was decided that members should be paid for their attendance. Members should direct this information to Clerk-Treasurer Wright so that he can update his meeting attendance spreadsheet and adjust the 2024 budget, year-to-date. A typo in the certificate of deposit balance was discovered. Wright reported that the actual balance is \$20,531. The document will be corrected.
12. **Update on Southwest Badger Natural Resource Conservation Fund** – Chair Pulliam stated that this is the same grant as previously discussed in item 9 above.
13. **Discuss and Consider Possible Revisions to Ordinance 2023-01 Codifying the Town of New Glarus Park Commission** – Commissioner Pernitz stated that there is no update at this time.
14. **Schedule Next Meeting, August 21, 2024, at 6:00 PM**
15. **Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn by Pernitz; seconded by Neton. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Approved: August 21, 2024



Prepared by John Wright, Clerk-Treasurer