

TOWN OF NEW GLARUS
PARK COMMISSION MEETING
August 21, 2024
Minutes

Attending: Harry Pulliam (Chair), Kelly Ruschman, Mark Pernitz, Chris Narveson, Jason Neton, and Mona Sue French.

Absent: Rose Pertzborn

Also attending: Nancy Streiff: Deputy-Treasurer and Frank Grenzow: Town of New Glarus resident.

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Pulliam called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.
2. **Proof of Posting** – Deputy Treasurer Streiff attested to proper proof of posting.
3. **Approve Minutes** – A motion to approve the July 17, 2024. Regular minutes as presented, was made by French; seconded by Ruschman. Motion carried, 6-0.

4. **Public Comments** – The members in attendance discussed whether hunting would be allowed at the Town of New Glarus Park this year. French made a motion that the Town of New Glarus will not allow any hunting on the park property. Ruschman seconded the motion. Motion carried, 6-0.

The Town of New Glarus has been helping the Village of New Glarus with site preparations for the updated Candy Cane Park. On Saturday, August 24th at 8 AM there will be a workday to start assembling the new accessible playground equipment. Narveson noted that Town Patrolman, Ron Roesslein has donated a considerable amount of personal time working on this effort.

5. **Note That Mark Pernitz has Agreed to Serve Another 7-Year Term on the Park Commission**
6. **Update on Prairie Restoration at Town Park** – Jason & Kelly

Neton reported that he had meetings with four vendors regarding work to restore the prairie at the Town Park including Heartland Ecological Group, Resource Environmental Solutions, Adaptive Restoration, and Quercus Land Stewardship Services.

Neton stated that he gathered feedback from each vendor on their recommendations and is expecting to receive quotes in a couple of weeks. The members of the Park Commission will review the quotes and determine the next steps at the September meeting. This effort will be the first step of a larger project. The Town may hire different groups to complete various tasks.

According to Neton, vendors suggested working on the eight to nine acres that are around the remnant prairie and then to use a combination of drill seeding and broadcast seeding depending on the location.

Per Grenzow, one advantage to drill seeding on hillsides would be that the seed would be less likely to wash away. Most of the vendors are willing to make custom seed mixes. Cost for seed mixes can range from \$300 - \$500 per acre, up to as much as \$3,000 per acre. One option would be to select a basic mix at \$300/acre range and then supplement with seeds from the Prairie Enthusiasts. Another option could be to work with Steve Fabos, who the Parks Commission has been working with in the past. Prior to planting the seeds, herbicide will likely need to be applied.

Grenzow recommended that it would be best to remove trees and brush when fields are bare before planting prairie seeds. Grenzow offered to cut down some trees that should be removed. Narveson offered to talk to Ron Roesslein about this and get back to Grenzow.

As a group, the Park Commission and any willing volunteers may start working on the Oak knoll.

7. **Update on Mowing at Town Park** – Frank Grenzow

Grenzow mowed a 12-foot-wide path around the Town Park. There are several trees and bushes along the fence that could be removed to increase the amount of usable land in the park. If these are removed, then the trail around the park could be closer to the outer perimeter providing a buffer for invasives from neighboring properties as well as provide a fire break. Per Grenzow, all four prairie restoration companies suggested that we plant the prairies out to the edges and then mow the trails where we want them.

8. **Report on Sunny Peace Prairie in Orfordville** – Frank Grenzow

Sunny Peace Prairie is similar in size to the New Glarus Town Park property. Grenzow

recommends that all Park Commission members watch the 2-minute videos linked in the email provided in the packet. The videos explain the process to restore land to a native prairie, a cycle which usually takes four years.

9. **Update on Decision by DNR re: Grant for Trail Within Town Park** – Chris
Per Narveson, the New Glarus Town Board has approved hiring up to two people to work on the trails. They will ensure the grade/pitch are correct and that the storm water is controlled. The goal will be to try to work with the lay of the land rather than put in culverts. The DNR has given the Town a deadline of June 2025 to finalize trail construction. The goal is to have as much work completed this fall if as is possible.
10. **Discuss and Consider Invasives Removal and Seeding at Bluebird Ridge** – Report from Jason on his Meeting at BBRC with Steve Fabos of Indigenous Restorations. No update – defer to September agenda.
11. **Annual Tree Sale Income and Expenses Report** - The report was shared with the members present.
12. **Updated 2024 Budget to Actual** - The report was shared with those present.
13. **Update on Southwest Badger Natural Resource Conservation Fund Grant Application due Sept. 15, 2024** – Harry & Kelly. This is under review by Ruschman, Pertzborn, and Wright. Neton made a motion to submit the Grant Application and Narveson seconded. Motion approved 6 – 0.
14. **Discuss and Consider Possible Revisions to Ordinance 2023-01 Codifying the Town of New Glarus Park Commission** – Mark. No update
15. **Schedule Next Meeting**, September 18, 2024, at 6:00 PM
16. **Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn by Pernitz; seconded by Ruschman. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Approved: September 18, 2024

Prepared by Nancy Streiff, Deputy Treasurer