

Town of Verona
Open Space and Parks Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Present: Keen, Hoffman, Miller, and Stellick
Absent: Siehr
Also Present: John Wright, Clerk-Treasurer (C-T)
Called to order at 7:38 PM

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Miller to approve agenda; 2nd Stellick. Motion carried.

Public Comments

C-T Wright reported on a conversation he had this afternoon by phone with Administrator/Planner (A-P) Arnold and Matt Zine, DNR State Natural Area Manager. A-P Arnold asked Zine about future plans of adding a parking area to the 94.75 acre property to the north of Valley Road and east of Sugar River Road (see attached parcel map). Zine stated the property was adjacent to the Sugar River Wetlands State Natural Area (see attached topographic map). Currently the property is accessible via the Military Ridge Bike Trail and has no other improvements. Zine stated the Governor has requested DNR sites be more accessible to the public; in response, Zine, Chris Rehlinger (a construction representative of the Engineering and Construction Management Section of the DNR), and Cindy Delcamp (Ranger- Assistant Property Manager for the Military Ridge State Trail) have been discussing possible locations for a small surface parking area on the property.

Zine further stated that 30-acre portions of the parcel are planted annually for prairie restoration. There has been some discussion of a trail to the east for recreation and as a fire break when conducting controlled burns. Zine is aware of those wanting a canoe/kayak access point on the property, but stated organizing its development is outside the scope of his position. A-P Arnold suggested an informal discussion between Zine, Delcamp, and Rehlinger with representatives from the Town. Zine agreed to contact Delcamp and Rehlinger and to let Arnold know of their availability.

C-T Wright also reported that on January 25, 2013 Bruce Richards, Facilities and Engineering Director at Epic, had a brief meeting with Town Chair Dave Combs, Board member Mark Geller, A-P Arnold, C-T Wright, and Deputy C-T Dresser. The purpose of the meeting was to answer some questions regarding future plans by Epic. There was some discussion of a remote parking deck, progress on new buildings under construction on the campus, addressing traffic problems at peak periods, and the preservation of open space to the north of the campus. Wright reported that Chair Combs was particularly interested in establishing a dialogue between Epic and members of the Town's Open Space and Parks Commission (OSPC). Richards agreed to include the Town when discussing future plans. There followed a brief discussion regarding the future plans for North Nine Mound Road and existing quarries in that area.

Keen stated he had been interviewed by Mark Ignatowski of the **Verona Press** regarding an article on the Open Space and Parks Commission and the OSPC search for new members; to date the article has not appeared in print. Member Stellick had invited resident Karen Godshall to attend this evening's meeting and had recommended her as a member of this commission; C-T Wright will continue to send Ms. Godshall agendas for future meetings; without objection.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Miller to approve the December; 2nd Stellick. Motion carried.

Update on Property Purchase from the Bruce Company

Chair Keen noted that grant awards have yet to be announced for the pending property acquisition of Bruce Company land; however, the Bruce Company did agree to the offer proposed by the Natural Heritage Trust Foundation.

Update on Trimming and Brushing Statement of Policy

C-T Wright stated that the Town Board meeting went long yesterday evening; as a consequence there was no discussion of the Trimming and Brushing Statement Policy. Member Miller gave the group a brief report about a claim presented to the Town Board regarding a tree that had been removed, which had overhung the Town right-of-way. Miller noted that Dane County has a policy of public dedication of road right-of-ways instead of land ownership of adjacent lots to the centerline of public roads.

Discussion of Dane County Environmental Grant Proposals

Chair Keen asked those members in attendance if they had any proposals for the environmental grants through the county; there were no suggestions voiced. Keen stated that he was working with the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (USRWA) on a proposal for cattle fences along the Sugar River. Keen noted that this commission may be approached for a letter of support for the USRWA. There was brief discussion that the OSPC could potentially sponsor a sign for the proposed parking area off of Valley Road.

Establish an Agenda for the March Meeting

The following items were suggested for the March meeting: Call to Order; Approval of Agenda; Public Comments; Approval of Meeting Minutes from the February 6, 2013 Meeting; Update on Property Purchase from the Bruce Company; Update on Trimming and Brushing Statement Policy; Discussion of the Department of Natural Resources Access to the Sugar River; Establish April Agenda; and Adjourn.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Miller; 2nd by Hoffman. Motion carried at 8:37 PM.

John Wright
Clerk-Treasurer

Revised: 3/06/2013
Approved: 3/06/2013