

Town of Verona  
Open Space and Parks Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 7, 2013

Present: Miller, Mathies, Jellings, Keen, and Stellick  
Absent: Siehr and Hoffman  
Also Present: Karen Godshall and John Wright, Clerk-Treasurer (C-T)  
Called to order at 7:33 PM

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Miller to approve agenda; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mathies. Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

Chair Keen gave a brief update of the Friends of Badger Milk Creek meeting held in June. Keen noted that the meeting was held at the Lonsdorf residence instead of the Verona Public Library as originally announced. The group that met suggested that the proposed friends group join with the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (USWRA) or Ice Age Trail to take advantage of either organization's non-profit status. Keen reminded the group that the Paddle and Pig Out will be held in Paoli on Saturday, August 17, 2013. Chair Keen further reported that an interactive map will be posted on the USWRA website that gives GPS coordinates for invasive aquatic species within the local watershed: [http://app.buildamap.com/renderer/?rid=KxITYUdG0RYy5ZlbRGXcpg&open\\_fbc=1](http://app.buildamap.com/renderer/?rid=KxITYUdG0RYy5ZlbRGXcpg&open_fbc=1).

Audience member Karen Godshall announced an informal gathering at her home on Monday, August 12, 2013. She will have a guest, Yvonne Post, from the State of Oregon who is touring the country to promote the use of goats to control invasive species. C-T Wright will check with Town Chair David Combs to see whether September will work for him to appear at the OSPC meeting and share his vision of how OSPC and Epic could partner to define the future of the green space surrounding their campuses.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Miller to approve the June minutes as presented; 2<sup>nd</sup> Stellick. The minutes from the June 5, 2013 meeting were adopted as presented.

**Installation of New Member**

C-T Wright reported that he swore-in newly appointed member Tom Jellings July 3, 2013. Jellings' term of office will end on May 1, 2019. Wright had a single remaining Plat Map Book that he offered to the two new members. Member Mathies will review that resource and then share it with Jellings.

**Continued Review of Trimming and Brushing Policy**

The members present reviewed the proposed changes from members Stellick and Mathies as well as those suggested by attendee Godshall (see attached). After an extensive review of the aforementioned suggestions and suggestions offered during the meeting, the group felt confident that the policy could be forwarded to the Town Board. Motion by Miller to recommend the amended Brushing and Trimming Policy to the Town Board at their September meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mathies. It was agreed that C-T Wright would implement all the changes suggested by this body and would present the finished product to the Board. Motion carried. The group agreed, without objection, to create a 30-day notification letter referenced in the amended policy at the September meeting.

**Report/Update from Clerk/Treasurer Wright Re: Department of Natural Resources Parking Area**

Wright reported that there has been no further action taken by the DNR to date beyond staking the boundaries of the parking area. C-T Wright observed that the person renting the field until 2015 has

a crop on parts of the proposed parking area. Chair Keen noted that Chris Rehlinger had notified the Town that he was sending out for bids on the project; Keen will forward the email to C-T Wright. Wright agreed to contact Bruce Richards at Epic to see if the offer to place boulders around the lot still stands despite the delay in constructing this parking area.

### **Report on Mulch and Possible Resources to Chip Brush**

C-T Wright reported that he received a quote for chipper rental from the local Ace Hardware: \$80 for four hours and \$150 for twenty-four hours. The rental fee includes the cost of insurance to cover the equipment. Wright further reported that he contacted Ron Rieder of the City of Verona Public Works Department. Rieder stated that the City owns equipment for processing trees and is willing to consider helping the Town if provided more details. Rieder noted that the product produced by their equipment is long and stringy and is usually rejected by property owners for landscaping use. Chair Keen noted that the City owns a shredder, not a chipper; this accounts for the texture of the finished product. Attendee Godshall noted that she has seen notices on Madison Craigslist to offer free wood chips; Godshall agreed to email the notice to C-T Wright.

During a brief discussion, the OSPC members observed they have considered a variety of resources in an effort to assist the neighborhood group along the De Marco Trail who maintain the interior, non-paved area of the cul-de-sac. The members agreed to the drafting of a letter to notify the neighborhood group of these efforts. C-T Wright will work with Chair Keen to draft a letter to be presented to the members for their consideration and possible approval at the September meeting.

### **Establish an Agenda for the September 4, 2013 Meeting**

The following items were suggested for the September meeting: Call to Order; Approval of Agenda; Public Comments; Approval of Meeting Minutes from the August 7, 2013 Meeting; Possible Discussion with Town Chair David Combs Regarding a Possible Collaboration of the OSPC and Epic to Define a Plan for the Green Space Surrounding Epic's Campuses; Update from Clerk-Treasurer Wright Regarding Epic's Continued Willingness to Donate and Place Boulders around the Proposed DNR Parking Lot; Establish September Agenda; and Adjourn.

### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Stellick; 2nd by Miller. Motion carried at 9:48 PM.

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John Wright  
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: September 4, 2013