

Town of Verona
Open Space and Parks Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Present: Keen, Maxwell, Stellick, and Hoffman
Absent: Mathies and Siehr
Also Present: John Wright, Clerk-Treasurer (C-T)
Called to order at 7:32 PM

Approval of Agenda

Stellick moved to approve the agenda; 2nd Maxwell. Motion to approve the agenda carried [note: it was discovered later in the meeting that the item for approval of minutes listed the August date instead of the September one].

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Updates from Staff and Membership

Chair Keen noted that the brush from the shoe cleaning station by the Valley Road boat launch is missing. C-T Wright reported that the Town Board approved a Certified Survey Map on October 6, 2015 that in part defines land to be donated to the Ice Age Trail Alliance to be added to existing land in the Town of Middleton off of Timber Lane.

Chair Keen asked why the design for the new Town Hall did not include a basement. He noted that it did not need to be available to the public, but could provide valuable storage space at a minimal cost. There followed brief discussion regarding whether there is some merit in having Epic Systems build the Town Hall and Public Works facility and lease/rent it to the Town for the next 50 years; Epic could depreciate the structures whereas the Town cannot.

Approval of Minutes

Stellick moved to approve the September minutes; 2nd Hoffman. Motion to accept the minutes from the September 9, 2015 meeting as presented carried; Maxwell abstained because he had not been present at the September meeting.

Response from the City of Verona Regarding Plan Commission Letter Outlining OSPC Recommendation for a Possible Easement on Locust Drive Property Purchased by the Verona Area School District

Included in the member packets was a copy of an email from Adam Sayre, City of Verona Director of Planning and Development dated October 1, 2015. He responded to an offer from the members of the Town of Verona Open Space and Parks Commission (OSPC) to offer their services when the committee that reviews the City's Southeast Neighborhood Plan meets next. Sayre indicated there is no scheduled meeting for this topic, but when one occurs it would be open to the public, and members of the Town's OSPC would be welcome to participate.

Town Board Response to OSPC Recommendation for the Creation of a Five Member Committee Named Natural and Recreational Areas Committee

C-T Wright reported that the Town Chair was the most vocal in expressing his thanks to the members of the OSPC for their efforts to envision the future of this body as it transitions from a commission set by State Statute to one defined by the Town Board. Town Chair Mark Geller asked for Wright and OSPC member by Town Board appointment Maxwell to convey his "great appreciation."

There was brief discussion about which public meeting the proposed transition from commission to committee could take place. Member Maxwell expressed his wish that it happen at the next public meeting when it is scheduled; without objection.

Discussion Regarding Repurposing the Retained Acreage of Town Land Purchased for the Proposed Town Hall/Public Works Facilities Including Prairie Restoration

Member Maxwell noted that he was able to attend the end of a prairie tour on the Rick Henderson property; he further noted that around fifteen people were in attendance including OSPC member Tom Mathies. Maxwell further noted that the Town Board has been more occupied with reducing the building costs and site preparation costs for the proposed Town Hall/Public Works buildings at the County Highway PD property, rather than upon how the retained acreage will be repurposed/utilized. The Town Board has authorized the Town Chair to put the building project out for bid when the final bid documents become available. It was noted that some buildings on the County Highway PD site have been sold; those that have not will be removed by the contractor involved in site preparation. There followed a brief discussion of local tall and short grass prairies.

Identify Areas within the Town of Verona for Preservation and/or Development

There was brief discussion regarding Phase II of the Payne and Dolan aggregate operation on the west side of State Highway 69. The engineering firm contracted by Payne and Dolan recommended access to the property from Riverside Road. There was brief discussion regarding the purchase by the City of Verona of two parcels on the east side of North Nine Mound Road near County Highway PD. These parcels are slated to be annexed into the City of Verona.

Review Preliminary Plat for Jacobsen Property

Member Maxwell noted that this proposed condominium development is adjacent to the Heartland Farm Sanctuary. It was noted that due to the property's location on the terminal moraine, private mound septic systems may be required. There was brief discussion of the local aquifer and the location of this proposed development in close proximity of the Richardson Caves system.

Establish an Agenda for the November 4, 2015 Meeting

The proposed agenda is as follows: Call to Order; Approval of the Agenda; Public Comments; Updates from Staff and Membership; Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 7, 2015; 6. Discussion Regarding Repurposing the Retained Acreage of Town Land Purchased for the Proposed Town Hall/Public Works Facilities Including Prairie Restoration; Identify Areas Within the Town of Verona for Preservation and/or Development; Review Preliminary Certified Survey Map(s) (this item should only be added if there are maps to review); Update on Dane County Parks Sunset Drive Parking Lot (this item should only be added if there is an update); Set December Agenda; and Adjourn.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Stellick; 2nd by Hoffman. Motion carried at 8:38 PM.

John Wright
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: November 4, 2015

Revised 11/04/2015