

Town of Verona
Open Space and Parks Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Present: Keen, Mathies, Jellings, Hoffman, Combs and Stellick
Absent: Siehr
Also Present: John Wright, Clerk-Treasurer (C-T)
Called to order at 7:30 PM

Approval of Agenda

Mathies moved to approve the agenda; 2nd Stellick. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Chair Keen announced that the Dane County Board has approved the purchase of the Neperud property in the Town of Montrose. Member Mathies reported that he, Chair Keen, and member Stellick attended a meeting held on March 31, 2015 at the Verona Public Library entitled *Stormwater Retention and Use*. UW Madison Professor Robert Bohanan led the discussion regarding the water quality of retention ponds and the Badger Mill Creek. Chair Keen noted that the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (USRWA) will hold its first streambank clean-up day on April 11, 2015. More information is available at: <http://usrwa.org/streambank-work-parties/> and <http://www.capitolwatertrails.org/calendar.php>.

Those members present reviewed the 2015 Prescribed Burn Schedule for Dane County Parks; the notice has been sent to subscribers of the Town of Verona listserv. Member Hoffman asked for a clarification regarding a new requirement for an open burning permit in the Town. Wright responded that this is a provision of Chapter 3 Fire Safety [3.23 (3)] ; the permit is issued by the Wisconsin DNR, not the Town. The permit can be requested online (<http://dnr.wi.gov/burnpermits/>). It was noted that the DNR does not enforce the permit. The Town Board is introducing a resolution on April 2, 2015 to adopt Chapters 1,2,3, and 5 as part of a codification process. It was noted that tonight is the final meeting to be attended by Dave Combs, the Town Board appointee to the OSPC. Mark Geller, the newly-elected Chair of the Town Board should have a replacement appointed to the OSPC by the May meeting. Member Tom Jellings will be moving to Waunakee, WI, so the May meeting will be his final meeting on the OSPC. Member Mathies proposed that the update of the Parks Plan should be scheduled for review at some future date.

Approval of Regular Minutes

Stellick noted that the location where the DR Trimmer will be stored, if the capital equipment grant is approved for the USRWA, is not explicitly stated in the draft minutes. It was noted that the two trailers for USRWA equipment are currently on Bill Keen's property; previously they have been stored at other USRWA member's property. Stellick moved to approve the regular meeting minutes as amended; 2nd Hoffman. Motion to accept the minutes from the March 4, 2015 regular meeting carried; Combs, who was not at the March regular meeting abstained.

Approval of Special Minutes

Combs moved to approve the special meeting minutes as presented; 2nd Mathies. Motion to accept the minutes from the March 11, 2015 special meeting carried. Hoffman, who was not present at the March special meeting, abstained.

Discussion of Preliminary Certified Survey Map

The members present reviewed the Preliminary Certified Survey Map prepared by D'Onofrio, Kottke, and Associates for Epic Systems. The map contains two lots that subdivide an existing parcel. Lot 1 contains three existing buildings for equipment storage and Lot 2 is land in agricultural use; the map also defines a section of Country View Road to be dedicated to the public. The survey was required by Dane County Zoning and Planning prior to granting permission for restroom facilities to be installed; Lot 1 containing the three buildings will be rezoned limited commercial. Chair Keen asked if the site will be served by public or private water and sewer; it will have private well and septic. It was noted that these two proposed lots are

not contiguous to the land purchased recently by the Town of Verona. It was not known which building or buildings would contain restrooms.

Continue Discussion of New Town Hall Site

Those present reviewed revisions to the survey first proposed by Chair Keen from the March meeting with changes proposed by OSPC members and Town staff. Likewise, the group reviewed revisions proposed by member Combs. Combs reviewed his organization of the questions; the majority of the questions requested the respondent reply using a five-step scale. Combs suggested the following range of responses: *Strongly Opposed*, *Opposed*, *Don't Care*, *In Favor*, *Strongly in Favor*. Without objection, the middle response will be *Neutral* instead of *Don't Care*. There followed a general discussion regarding how many acres were needed for the proposed Town Hall, Public Works and salt storage buildings in addition to how many acres possible other activities outlined in the survey would require if supported. It was noted that the greater the number of acres retained, the less money would be derived from residual land sale to partially pay for construction.

There was general discussion regarding the need for volunteers to make the maintenance for some of the propositions (e.g. maintaining walking trails) cost-effective and to institute user fees for some options (e.g. curbside brush pickup) so that operating cost would not be derived from property taxes. Chair Keen liked the increase in the response range from the current three levels to five. It was noted that the results of the survey will help guide the Town Board in their decision of the number of acres to retain and what services should and should not be offered. Member Combs noted that a survey for resident input regarding a proposed senior center had a high level of response and was helpful to the Board at that time. Member Stellick recommended that question three be rewritten to read, "Would you be opposed to or in favor of *Town* development and maintenance of a prairie restoration on part of the property".

There was additional discussion regarding how successful the community space has been at the Montrose Town Hall. Member Stellick wondered if a high level of interest is expressed for the proposed community room (when not in use as the Board room), would additional parking need to be added to the proposed lot? Stellick also wondered if the Town would consider public use of the grounds for an outside event, or should those inquiries be sent to the adjacent Goodman Center? Member Mathies thought question seven regarding willingness to volunteer to maintain the property for certain uses should go beyond a yes or no reply, possibly requesting a name and contact information. Member Hoffman thought it appropriate that if they replied positively to volunteering, then ask how many hours they would be willing to help. Member Combs gave an update on efforts to clean the site of tires and other items as well as the scheduling of an environmental evaluation to check for contaminants and/or asbestos. Keen noted that reserve acres for future needs makes sense if the Town population were to grow; however, it would be difficult to know what needs there may be in the future or the probability for growth. It was noted that retention of land for one current purpose (e.g. a community garden) could be repurposed to fit a future need when that need arises.

Continue Discussion of Future Conservation Efforts within the Town of Verona

There was a brief discussion of land commercially zoned within the Town that will likely be marketed soon as well as a large block of contiguous land sold in the southwest quadrant of the Town outside of extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Verona. There was also a brief discussion regarding road salt.

Establish an Agenda for the May 6, 2015 Meeting

The proposed agenda is as follows: Call to Order; Approval of the Agenda; Public Comments; Approval of meeting minutes for April 1, 2015; Swearing In and Installation of New Town Board Appointment to OSPC, Review Preliminary Certified Survey Map(s) (this item should only be added if there are maps to review); Discuss Survey Results Regarding Town Land Purchase and Annual Town Meeting; Update on Dane County Parks Sunset Drive Parking Lot (this item should only be added if there is an update); Updates on Dane County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Activities (this items should only be added if there is an update); Continue Discussion of Future Conservation Efforts within the Town of Verona; Set June Agenda; and Adjourn.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Stellick; 2nd by Combs. Motion carried at 9:03 PM.

John Wright
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: