

Town of Verona
Special Open Space and Parks Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Present: Keen, Mathies, Stellick, and Combs

Absent: Hoffman, Jellings, and Siehr

Also Present: Laura Dreger (Town Board member), Sherry Combs, and John Wright, Clerk-Treasurer (C-T)

Called to order at 2:12 PM at the 7685 County Highway PD property

Approval of Agenda

Mathies made a motion to approve the agenda; 2nd Stellick. Motion to approve the agenda carried.

Public Comments

Town Board member Dreger was curious about the easement included in the purchase that provides contiguity to County Highway PD with a property to the south currently owned by the Sweeney family [C-T note: the narrow parcel also is adjacent to property owned by Epic Systems Inc. and the Ziegler family]. Ms. Dreger questioned how prevalent illegal dumping was within the Town; it was observed that most dumping is thought to be attributable to City residents, not Town residents. Dreger noted that the enclosed riding arena is a nice structure, but if no specific purpose can be defined, there would be no need for the Town to retain.

Review Physical Attributes of New Town Land

The members reviewed an aerial map of the purchased land and moved to the location near the proposed site for the new Town Hall near the existing fenced horse corral. Member Combs noted that a new access was proposed to the east of the existing one, opposite access to 7648 County Highway PD. The members reviewed the bounds of the property. Combs pointed out the triangular parcel to the west which had limited use. He proposed that this may be suitable for prairie restoration. There followed a general discussion about how much land would be retained, how much might be sold, and how the portion to be sold would be marketed. Member Combs noted that the Town will need to have an environmental assessment done at the existing site to determination if any contamination issues exist or if hazardous materials are present.

There was brief discussion regarding a proposed questionnaire for Town residents regarding possible items that they may want/not want to consider be included on the land purchased by the Town: community gardens, sports field(s), walking trails, etc. It was suggested that the Town may want to seek the advice from Dane County Parks on how best to utilize the residual acreage not needed for the Town Hall and Public Works facilities. Member Combs noted that the consulting group who works with Epic Systems had reviewed the existing barn and determined it to be under engineered to safely use; it is a liability if left as is. The group reviewed the enclosed riding arena attached to the barn. This space could potentially be used for cold storage; possibly it could be used for a drop off point for residents for materials to be recycled. There followed a brief conversation about possible curbside pickup of yard waste. It was noted that the location of the enclosed riding arena may be within the viewshed of the proposed location of the boardroom/election space. It was noted that if the enclosed arena was not retained, there was potential value in the trusses and other materials.

There was brief discussion regarding how residual land and unwanted buildings could be deassessed. Member Stellick recommended for a commercial realtor to review the buildings to determine what, if any, value they may have. It was noted by Chair Keen that utilizing existing buildings often causes problems because new buildings must be designed around them.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mathies; 2nd by Stellick. Motion carried at 2:54 PM.

John Wright
Clerk-Treasurer

Revised 3/29/2015
Approved: