

Town of Verona  
Open Space and Parks Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Present: Keen, Mathies, Stellick, and Hoffman  
Absent: Maxwell and Siehr  
Also Present: John Wright, Clerk-Treasurer (C-T)  
Called to order at 7:31 PM

**Approval of Agenda**

Stellick moved to approve the agenda; 2<sup>nd</sup> Hoffman. Motion to approve the agenda carried.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Updates from Staff and Membership**

Member Mathies reported on the Dane Pollinator Protection Task Force meeting he attended. Mathies stated that the primary pollinators focused upon are bees. Beyond Town mowing policies, there was little the group thought the Town could directly contribute. It was noted that Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds may be available to local farmers to establish native plant areas on their land (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/programs/financial/eqip/>). It was noted that recommendations will be due to the Dane County Board regarding the Pollinator Task Force by September 15, 2015.

Chair Keen reported he had spoken with Darren Marsh of Dane County Parks and Open Space about the boat landing on the County land adjacent to Bobcat Lane. Although this is to be completed, it ranked low on County's priority list. A boat landing is scheduled to be installed on the property acquired from the Neperud Estate in the Town of Montrose near Basco.

**Approval of Minutes**

Stellick moved to approve the August minutes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mathies. Motion to accept the minutes from the August 5, 2015 meeting as presented carried.

**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**

There was brief discussion regarding the future plans to straighten STH 69. Member Mathies stated the fording of Sugar River proposal submitted to the DNR by a local resident could be impacted by the presence of a possible native mound nearby.

C-T Wright reported he spoke by phone last week with Adam Sayre, Director of Planning and Development for the City of Verona. According to Sayre, the City of Verona is committed to connections between the various natural resources identified by the Town of Verona Open Space and Parks Commission as conveyed by the letter sent by the Town's Plan Commission to the City. Sayre stated that these connections would include future sidewalks. According to Wright, he suggested to Sayre that when the City annexes more property in this area as part of their Southwest Neighborhood plan, that residential subdivisions could possibly have walking trails to connect these resources instead of or in addition to neighborhood parks. Wright stated the Town OSPC would be willing to assist in future planning discussions for this region; Sayre did not voice opposition to this proposal. Member Stellick recommended Sayre be contacted about a meeting opportunity with members of the OSPC to discuss concepts of possible interconnections between existing natural resources in the area. It was agreed, without objection, that C-T Wright find out the next meeting when the City will discuss their Southwest Neighborhood Plan.

### **Discussion Regarding an Open Space and Parks Committee with Possible Action to Approve a Recommendation to the Town Board**

The members discussed possible new names for an open space committee, ideal number of members, terms, Mission Statement, and method of determining members. The group considered whether there should be one member who is a Supervisor on the Town Board; should that member have voting privileges? They also considered whether there could be alternates who could attend as often as they liked, but would only have a vote if another member was absent. How would the Chair of the committee be determined: by the membership or the Town Chair?

Member Mathies moved to recommend to the Town Board a new five member committee named Natural and Recreational Areas Committee, with staggered terms of three years, with members nominated by the Town Chair and approved by the Town Board, the current Mission Statement of the Town of Verona Open Space and Parks Commission would be used by this new committee as its Mission Statement, and further recommends that one of the proposed committee members be a member of the Town Board, with one alternate member (recommended, not required) who is free to attend all meetings of the committee, but only has voting privileges in the absence of a regular member; 2<sup>nd</sup> Hoffman. Motion carried.

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

C-T Wright reported he had not contacted Ron Endres or Rich Henderson as requested to offer them access to the Town's property on County Highway PD on Saturday, August 22, 2015 when the Patrolman was present during public inspection of buildings during a closed-bid process. Member Mathies reported that the Town Board approved the winning bids for the buildings on the CTH PD property; no bids were approved for fencing, fanning mill, the bank barn, or the riding arena. There was a brief discussion regarding hearsay that one person or group potentially interested in buying the residual acres not needed for the new Town Hall and Public Works site may consider leasing back the land to the Town for 99 years. No bids on the residual land were available this evening for review.

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

There was no discussion on this topic.

### **Review Preliminary Certified Survey Maps for Prairie Circle**

Chair Keen asked about the southwest lots that were proposed to be subdivided into three RH-1 lots and one RH-4 lot. Member Mathies explained that three of the lots had direct access to the existing cul-de-sac bulb; whereas the fourth proposed lot connected via a private driveway. It was noted that within this part of the Town, the City of Verona has Extraterritorial Jurisdiction review in addition to Dane County having the zoning authority. There was brief discussion of why a 66' wide easement would be suggested for a private driveway; it was assumed this was in the event that Prairie Circle ever connected to Country View Road. C-T Wright noted that Lot 4 of the proposed DiMaggio division/rezoning should be zoned RH-3 instead of RH-4 [note: RH-4 is a minimum lot size of 16 acres]. There were no recommendations from this Commission regarding these Preliminary CSMs other than to confirm the one zoning issue noted above.

### **Establish an Agenda for the October 7, 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 September 9, 2015; 6. Town Board Response to OSPC Recommendation for the Creation of a Five Member Committee Named Natural and Recreational Areas Committee; 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 November Agenda; and Adjourn.

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Stellick; 2nd by Hoffman. Motion carried at 9:38 PM.

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John Wright  
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: October 7, 2015