

Town of Verona
Open Space and Parks Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 4, 2014

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

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Miller to approve the agenda as presented; 2nd Jellings. Motion to approve the agenda carried as presented.

Public Comments

Chair Keen reported that he had received three vials from the Wisconsin DNR of a biocontrol for Purple Loosestrife. Keen stated that he can be contacted regarding any known areas in need of treatment. Member Miller announced that the final steps to form a Municipal Court in the Town of Verona that builds upon the existing system run by the Town of Madison. Miller stated that Dane County Sheriff's Officers will be available at the Town Hall on the morning of June 13, 2014 to answer questions about the additional limited coverage they will provide for the Town.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Stellick to approve the May minutes as presented; 2nd Miller. Motion to accept the minutes from the May 7, 2014 meeting carried.

Updates on Dane County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Activities

C-T Wright reported he received an agenda for the May 22, 2014 meeting that he forwarded by email to the members of this Commission (see attached). Wright included the minutes from the April 24, 2014 meeting in the members' packets (attached). Minutes from the May Steering Committee meeting had not been posted online as of this evening.

Chair Keen attended the May meeting. Keen reported that the Steering Committee documented possible actions to address public comments/concerns voiced at prior meetings. Actions included amended language to the revised Plan. Member Stellick asked Keen if anything was stated at the May meeting which was a potential concern for the Town of Verona; Keen replied there was not. Keen did note that the proposed changes to the Plan had minimal impact upon local residents whose property was within the identified areas, unless there was a change from the current zoning. He further noted that those areas already zoned for development within a 500-year flooding frequency area would not be denied a permit solely because it was within this region. Keen noted that a property owner interested in improving the land from another Dane County Town was told the location of a potential home would be restricted if and when he petitioned to rezone the land for development. The members available briefly discussed the comments recorded by the Steering Committee and the proposed revisions.

Chair Keen noted that there was a buckthorn and other invasive species problem near Riverside Road and State Highway 69. He was wondering who has the authority to regulate. This sparked a brief discussion of land within the Town under the purview of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (within the Right-of-Way) that has ongoing issues with invasive control. Potentially the Town could authorize a Weed Commissioner who could contact private land owners of the need to remove invasive species; typically if the land owner does not comply by a specific date, the Town can contract the work and bill the land owner. The Town has no plans currently to authorize a Weed Commissioner. Member Hoffman noted that what appears to be uncontrolled growth to one person is another person's form of a natural barrier to limit trespassing, property visibility, and/or a means to protect livestock.

Clerk-Treasurer Report on Recorded Conservation Easements within the Town of Verona

C-T Wright reported he completed research on Sections 19-36 within the Town of Verona. The documents were forwarded as an email attachment to the members of this Commission and were printed and placed in a 3-ring binder with the research previously conducted for Sections 2-18. The notebook was available for members to review. Wright reported that the Town Board approved payment for these copies totaling \$39 at last night's meeting; this brings the total cost to the OSPC for this research to \$76.

Report from Clerk-Treasurer Regarding Feedback on Proposed Signage for Access to Goose Lake Property Owned by the Town of Verona

Wright reported that he contacted Steve Sheets of the Friends of Goose Lake group; Sheets agreed to share the Town's sign design with other members of the Friends group. Former OSPC Chair Kathleen McCormick delivered Goose Lake files to the Town Office that she came across when she was preparing her move away from the area. She noted that bicycling is not prohibited on this parcel, but it was recommended that people walk their bicycles to the nearby trail. Wright incorporated the *no trapping* symbol as recommended by the OSPC members in May as well as the language recommended by McCormick.

Wright reported that the Friends of Goose Lake group wanted their contributions to be acknowledged on the Town's sign so that it did not appear that only Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds had been used for the purchase. The design presented at tonight's meeting included acknowledgement for the Friends' contribution as well.

Continue Discussion of Future Conservation Efforts within the Town of Verona

Member Miller stated that the Town approached Epic Systems regarding potential sites for a new Town Hall/Public Works facility and is awaiting an answer. Miller considers Epic as a potential partner for visioning/funding future projects within the Town. There was a brief discussion of buried transmission lines from wind turbines to the Epic campus which cross private property. Member Stellick initiated a brief discussion regarding the ongoing efforts of the City of Verona to develop and implement a North Community plan. According to Stellick, there was a recent article in the **Verona Press** that included details about a proposed 30 acre floodplain/retention pond within a natural area near the intersections of County Highways PD and M. There followed a brief discussion regarding a potential site within the City of Verona for a new public school near the off-ramp near Epic and Verona Avenue and planned hotels.

Chair Keen had not spoken recently with Chris James from Dane County Parks. Keen stated that planned removal of bridges across the Sugar River on the former Bruce Company property has yet to begin.

Establish an Agenda for the July 2, 2014 Meeting

Call to Order; Approval of the Agenda; Public Comments; Approval of meeting minutes for June 4, 2014; Updates on Dane County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Activities; Update on Access Signage for Goose Lake Property Owned by the Town of Verona; Continue Discussion of Future Conservation Efforts within the Town of Verona; Establish August Agenda; and Adjourn.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Stellick; 2nd by Miller. Motion carried at 8:35 PM.

John Wright
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: July 2, 2014
Amended July 2, 2014