

Town of Verona
Open Space and Parks Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 7, 2014

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments

Member Gregg Miller accepted reappointment to the Open Space and Parks Commission by Town Chair David Combs at the May 6, 2014 Town Board meeting. Miller was sworn in prior to tonight's meeting.

C-T Wright reported that the Town had been contacted by the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on March 12, 2014 regarding land held by the Town in the Goose Lake neighborhood. Because the property was purchased in part through a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant, the DNR is now required to gather information regarding access, accepted activities, and prohibited activities. Wright worked with Cheryl Housley from the DNR Stewardship Local Government Grants Office, South Central Region to complete the information required. The results are now posted to the DNR's *Public Access Lands* viewer (see attached screen capture):
http://dnrmaps.wi.gov/sl/?Viewer=Public_Access_Lands.

Wright further reported that there remains an obligation to design and install signs at both entrances to the property (Pheasant Lane cul-de-sac and the narrow easement between lots at the end of the northern bulb of the DeMarco Trail cul-de-sac). Ms. Housley mailed the Town a single metal sign issued by the DNR to indicate Stewardship funding. Those in attendance reviewed the sign requirements. C-T Wright presented two sign designs for the group to consider. Member Mathies noted that the restriction on trapping is required to be added to the sign. Wright agreed to group the accepted uses together, to add the restriction on trapping, to add *Town of Verona* to the bottom of the sign, and to delete the word *neighborhood*. Mathies further requested that the sign designed by Wright be reviewed by members of the Friends of Goose Lake before submitting the order to print the sign; without objection. It was noted that the minimum size of the posted signs must be equal to or greater than 108 square inches. Member Stellick asked if any signage was required on this parcel of land beyond the two entrances. Chair Keen noted that the Dane County Parks land surrounding this parcel to the north, east, and west does not require signage; however, Dane County typically voluntarily posts restricted uses.

C-T Wright reported that all the right-of-way maps have been posted to the Town's website and that the initial page where the maps can be chosen is accompanied by an aerial image of the Town with red Section lines superimposed (see attached).

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Stellick to approve the April minutes as presented; 2nd Miller. Motion to accept the minutes from the April 8, 2014 meeting carried.

Updates on Dane County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Activities

C-T Wright reported he received revised public comments from the March 18, 2014 Steering Committee meeting discussed at the April 8, 2014 OSPC meeting (see attached) and minutes from that meeting. Wright also had the agenda from the April 24, 2014 which was not a public hearing (see attached). Chair Keen stated that he did not attend the April 24, 2014 meeting because mapping revisions were not an agenda item.

Chair Report on Annual Town Meeting

Chair Keen stated he and member Gregg Miller were present at the Annual Meeting held on April 22, 2014. Keen estimated the attendance to be between 12 and 20 residents. Keen gave a report to those present at the Annual Meeting regarding activities of the OSPC over the past year. It was noted that resident Mike Ehly recommended the Town Board increase funding for the OSPC and that former Town Chair Steve Sheets thanked the current members for their service to the Town.

Chair Report on Correspondence with Jim Welsh, Chris James, and Laura Guyer

Chair Keen stated he sent emails to Laura Guyer, Chris James, and Jim Welsh. Keen reported that the portion of land acquired from the Bruce Company that was on an aerial map with a superimposed cross-hatch pattern was purchased outright by Dane County Parks. Keen reported that Chris James gave him an update on the proposed parking area yet to be constructed off of STH 69 south of Sunset Drive. There was brief discussion about bridges scheduled to be removed from the former Bruce Company property and those to be added to facilitate planned natural trails. Keen reported that James was supportive of an easement to connect the Prairie Moraine Park to the Scheidegger Forest.

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

C-T Wright presented the group with recorded conservation easements contained in Sections 1-18 within the Town and City of Verona. The printing for these documents consumed \$37 of the \$50 budgeted for this research project. Member Miller moved to approve an additional \$50 to continue research on recorded conservation easements within the Town; 2nd Mathies. Motion carried.

Continue Discussion of Future Conservation Efforts within the Town of Verona

The group reviewed an undated flyer of local parks and trails which had outdated information. According to the pamphlet, Ice Age Trail extends to within a block of the Scheidegger Forest. Chair Keen stated the Alliance owns that property, but there is not public access at that location. Member Stellick reported on the construction under way for the new parking area for the Prairie Moraine Park. Chair Keen discussed a prior plan of the Town OSPC to preserve an area referred to as the Sugar River Valley; according to Keen, the property was unable to be purchased. Keen noted that Karl Curtis formerly of the **Verona Press** took aerial photographs of this area. There was brief discussion of the timeline for restoring the remainder of the DNR property off of Valley Road to prairie. Chair Keen reported that Dean Health Systems and the Sisters of Saint Mary have recently merged; Dean owns acreage to the east of the DNR land on Valley Road. There was brief discussion about land that will have public access once Payne and Dolan Herfel Aggregate Site ceases operation on the east side of STH 69. According to Keen, the land is on the parcel to the west of STH 69 south of the Badger Mill Creek. There was brief discussion regarding Richardson's Cave; it is a local geologic feature that has restricted access and is privately owned.

Establish an Agenda for the June 4, 2014 Meeting

Call to Order; Approval of the Agenda; Public Comments; Approval of meeting minutes for May 7, 2014; Updates on Dane County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Activities; Clerk-Treasurer Report on Recorded Conservation Easements within the Town of Verona; Report from Clerk-Treasurer Regarding Feedback on Proposed Signage for Access to Goose Lake Property Owned by the Town of Verona; Continue Discussion of Future Conservation Efforts within the Town of Verona; Establish June Agenda; and Adjourn.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mathies; 2nd by Miller. Motion carried at 9:00 PM.

John Wright
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: June 4, 2014