

Town of Verona  
Open Space and Parks Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 1, 2014

Present: Mathies, Hoffman, Miller, Stellick, Keen, and Jellings

Absent: Siehr

Also Present: Susan Severson and John Wright, Clerk-Treasurer (C-T)

Called to order at 7:30 PM

### **Approval of Agenda**

Chair Keen stated that Wade Moder, Director of the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (USRWA) spoke with Kevin Connors the Director of Dane County Land and Water Resources; they recommended that item 5 regarding cattle fences across local navigable waterways be handled differently than tonight's planned discussion and recommendation to the Town Board. Mathies made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of item 5; 2<sup>nd</sup> Hoffman. Motion to approve the agenda as amended carried.

### **Public Comments**

Susan Severson, a resident in attendance asked about the item removed from the agenda. Chair Keen stated that the USRWA had received comments and complaints in the past about cattle fences in the area that restricted safe passage along navigable waterways. Keen noted that the Village of Belleville had approved a letter for their residents who owned land with similar fences; however, Wade Moder or the USRWA and Kevin Connors wanted to try a different approach with Town of Verona residents with these types of fences. According to Keen, Moder wants to delay approaching affected property owners until two fences are installed and function successfully. There are two designs available that have been offered to land owners at no cost. There followed a brief discussion regarding State Ordinances governing the rights to navigability {§30.03(4) (a)} and restricting impediments to navigability {§30.10 (2)}. There was also a brief discussion of an alternate cattle fence design installed by the Department of Natural Resources in the 1960s that is no longer in favor. Member Hoffman expressed his concern over the reaction of cattle to unfamiliar human presence along these navigable waterways that flow through private agricultural land.

C-T Wright stated that last month's meeting was cancelled; notes were taken to document the members who were present prior to cancellation of the meeting due to lack of a quorum. Wright stated he notified Lavane Hessler and Cheryl Housley on August 8, 2014 that the Town has completed the sign installation at the two access points to the Town-owned property near Goose Lake. Keen reported that he cut grass leading from the Valley Road parking area to the Sugar River to make launching canoes/kayaks easier. He further noted that a sign has been installed at the parking area with a QR Code to link to additional information online.

Wright noted that the November 4, 2014 General Election will preempt the Regular Town Board meeting; consequently the Board meeting will occur on the following Wednesday which will in turn preempt the November 5, 2014 regular OSPC meeting. Wright agreed to contact the Town Patrolman about a tractor tire beneath the bridge on Riverside Road.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Keen noted two required corrections for the August minutes: in Public Comments, the two boat cleaning stations on Valley Road and State Highway 69 are in the planning stages only; the water monitoring station mentioned on page two, paragraph two is located on the Falk Wells property, not the Herfel property as reported. Motion made by Stellick to approve the August minutes as amended; 2<sup>nd</sup> Hoffman. Motion to accept the minutes from the August 6, 2014 meeting carried.

### **Update on Dane County Parks Sunset Drive Parking Lot**

C-T Wright reported he had driven past the proposed site of the parking area for the Falk-Wells Wildlife Area yesterday afternoon. Although there were two small areas of tilled soil in the general location of the proposed lot, no flag markers or stakes were observed.

C-T Wright reported on the parking area for the Prairie Moraine State Park at the end of Wesner Road. The lot has been paved, the kiosk and fencing installed, and surrounding land reseeded. Wright was unaware when the older lot will be downsized and the new lot opened to the public.

#### **Updates on Dane County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Activities**

C-T Wright reported he had checked the Dane County Legislative Information Center website earlier today and found no new agendas posted for future meetings of the Steering Committee.

#### **Continue Discussion of Future Conservation Efforts within the Town of Verona**

There was a general discussion about the control of invasive species within the Town. It was noted that the limited mowing performed by Dane County and the State of Wisconsin along their road rights-of-ways was contributing to the spread of invasive flora. Chair Keen gave a brief report regarding the AIS Bridge Snapshot Day held on September 13, 2014 at three locations within the Town of Verona. Keen stated that some aquatic species that were gathered that day are still pending identification. Keen will give a detailed report of the study at a future date to be determined.

There was brief discussion of possibly eliciting the help of local scouting groups to assist in controlling non-poisonous species and reseeding affected areas. Keen proposed that the Town may want to support groups to study invasive aquatic species beyond those reviewed on September 13, 2014 as reported above.

#### **Establish an Agenda for the November 12, 2014 Meeting**

The proposed agenda is as follows: Call to Order; Approval of the Agenda; Public Comments; Approval of meeting minutes for October 1, 2014; Update on Dane County Parks Sunset Drive Parking Lot; Updates on Dane County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Activities; Continue Discussion of Future Conservation Efforts within the Town of Verona; Discuss Whether to Hold a December Meeting, Set December Agenda (if needed); and Adjourn.

#### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Mathies; 2nd by Stellick. Motion carried at 8:41 PM.

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John Wright  
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: November 12, 2014