

Town of Verona  
Open Space and Parks Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Present: Mathies, Stellick, Keen, Jellings, and Miller  
Absent: Siehr and Hoffman  
Also Present: John Wright, Clerk-Treasurer (C-T)  
Called to order at 7:30 PM

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Miller to approve the agenda as presented; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mathies. Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes**

Member Stellick believed he was misquoted in the first full paragraph on the second page. Stellick stated the conflict was with higher densities and farmland preservation, not private septic systems as written. Motion made by Stellick to approve the November minutes as amended; 2<sup>nd</sup> Miller. The motion to adopt the corrected minutes from the November 6, 2013 meeting carried.

**Review Sample Maps of Natural Resources and Contours**

C-T Wright presented a hillshade map created on the Wisconsin Surface Water Data Viewer. The map included contour lines, local roads and highways, navigable waterways, wetlands, and forested areas. Wright also presented an aerial map overlaid with two-foot contours. Member Miller commented that the latter map better illustrated the natural barriers that could impede the outward expansion of the City of Verona to the south and west into the Town. Chair Keen noted the location in Section 33 of a once-proposed lift station to the west of State Highway 69 and to the south of Riverside Road. Keen further recalled that the proposal was made by the Madison Metro Sewerage District and would have involved an agreement to preserve an historic mound and stagecoach stop if it had been approved for purchase. Keen doubted there was enough pressure for expansion in the City of Verona to justify the expense of this lift station. There was a general discussion that the hilly nature of the driftless lands to the east and west of this area described by Chair Keen would likely prevent residential developments of higher densities. Keen expressed his opinion that it was far more likely that the development of a public sewer system was far more likely to occur within Paoli that could possibly expand westward to Bosco and Belleville. There was a general discussion about property owned by the Dean Clinic on Valley Road and the recent purchase of 173 acres within the Town by a developer.

Chair Keen proposed that the Open Space and Parks Commission (OSPC) members not spend additional time drafting possible development restrictions to present to the Town's Planning Commission or Board; instead, he proposed waiting until a developer comes forward with a plan and then reacting to their plans. Member Miller noted that the Town already has ordinances to regulate the division and development of property within the Municipality. Member Mathies questioned whether the OSPC members were requested to develop a proposed policy or to await direction from the Town Board. There followed a brief discussion about what role Town Chair Dave Combs proposed for the OSPC.

Chair Keen proposed that an item be added to the January 2014 agenda to discuss future directions for the preservation and/or development of open space within the Town of Verona; without objection. Keen requested that each member return with at least two items for discussion. Some preliminary topics that were introduced included:

- Identify areas within the Town where residential and commercial developments don't make sense
- A green buffer between the Town and City of Verona
- Maintained cross country ski trails
- A possible partnering with the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association to assist with discussing possible support from Epic to offset granting shortfalls
- A possible return of eroded farmland to wetlands to mitigate stormwater issues along STH 69 and the Sugar River

**Continue to Craft a Sample 30-Day Notification Letter for Removal of Plantings Referenced in the Proposed Revisions to the Brushing and Trimming Policy if Authorized by the Town Board**

The members in attendance discussed changes to the proposed notification letter to residents affected by scheduled trimming within the Town rights-of-way (ROW). Because Town roads are not always centered within the ROW, it was agreed that a map showing the location of Town roads relative to the ROW should be posted on the Town website and referenced in the proposed letter. It was agreed, based upon Town Board advice, to strike the paragraph detailing the marking of trees prior to trimming and/or removal. Member Mathies suggested adding an option for property owners to trim branches of trees whose trunks are on the landowner's property, but the branches of which overhang the road ROW; without objection. There was minor reworking of the language regarding removal of unauthorized items from the ROW in order to facilitate trimming. C-T Wright agreed to incorporate the changes into the draft notification letter and to share it with the Town Board members at their next regular meeting.

**Update on Planting Recommendations Included in the Annual Newsletter and Town Website**

C-T Wright presented the members present with a draft of the annual newsletter to accompany tax bills which included the information prepared by member Mathies. Mathies provided concise recommendations and resources for property owners whose work may affect the Town ROW.

**Establish an Agenda for the January 8, 2014 Meeting**

Call to Order; Approval of the Agenda; Public Comments; Approval of meeting minutes for December 4, 2013; Discuss Possible Ideas for the Future Preservation/Development of Open Spaces within the Town; Discuss the Possible Use of a Newsletter to Solicit Public Input Regarding Future Projects/Plans to be Implemented by the Open Space and Parks Commission; Town Board Response to Notification Letter for Planned Brushing and Trimming with Possible Action to Implement Further Changes Based Upon Board Recommendations; Establish February Agenda; and Adjourn.

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Stellick; 2nd by Miller. Motion carried at 9:28 PM.

---

John Wright  
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: January 8, 2014