

Town of Verona
Natural and Recreational Areas Committee Minutes
Town of Verona meeting
6/22/21

Present: Bill Keen, Dave Lonsdorf, Jo Tucker, Rosemary Bodolay

GUEST: Tom Mathies

Chair Keen called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Lonsdorf, Second Tucker, passed 4-0

Minutes: Minutes from May 25, 2021 Motion Lonsdorf, Second Tucker, passed 4-0

Public Comments: None

Update from Members: Keen announced that Hoffman had resigned from the committee due to health reasons. It was suggested that he be honored for serving many years on the committee (15-17 years??) Keen will ask Sarah Gaskell to put something in weekly newsletter.

Update from Board Member: Lonsdorf talked about the prairie and its good diversity, how he brush cut many weeds in prairie, wants NRAC to be in charge of prairie. There are spots of weeds and we need to over seed some areas. Suggested we burn the prairie earlier next year.

Energy Audit results and Solar Panels: Lonsdorf reported that the energy audit did not show any waste of electricity. Lonsdorf presented a concept proposal of the savings from using solar panels. Motion by Tucker: Concept seems feasible and significant cost savings seems available, so move that Lonsdorf ask Town Board to proceed with detailed investigation, budgeting and procuring a solar panel system for the town. Second by Lonsdorf passed 4-0

Discussion of how to get more members: Put up application on web page, have Gaskell ask for volunteers in weekly newsletter. Lonsdorf will write up request to give to Gaskell

Discussion of top 4 priorities for NRAC: Each member presented their top 4 priorities- the top four were (in no particular order):

1. Trails- Includes water, bike, hiking, Ice Age. Creating, connecting and ways to accomplish
2. PDR-TDR, Conservation easements. How town can use to accomplish the other priorities of conserving and featuring natural areas and ag land. (This is also the task Chair Geller charged NRAC with doing.)
3. Identify Natural features – need to map and help landowners recognize them and how to protect these features.
4. Watershed management- Specifically Badger Mill Creek watershed with emphasis on Goose Lake. How to clean up and protect watershed from flooding.

These four will be brought to the board by Lonsdorf at July Board meeting, to update Board and seek support for working on these as top committee priorities.

Tom Mathies shared information about Conservation Easements:

an example of a conservation easement from the Town of Bloomer:

<http://townofbloomer.com/uploads/documents/Conservation%20Easement.pdf>

And the information from the Wisconsin Statutes, 700.40, Uniform conservation easement act
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/700/40>

Scheduled next meeting- July 27, 2021 at 6:30 at the town hall

Motion to adjourn by Bodolay, 2nd by Tucker Passed 4-0 at 8:22pm

Approved: July 27, 2021

Submitted by: Bill Keen