

Town of Verona  
Open Space and Parks Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Present: Keen, Hoffman, and Miller

Absent: Siehr, Stellick

Also Present: Tom Mathies, Karen Godshall, and John Wright, Clerk-Treasurer (C-T)

Called to order at 7:38 PM

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Miller to approve agenda; 2<sup>nd</sup> Hoffman. Motion carried.

### **Public Comments**

Chair Keen asked that the two visitors who were attending introduce themselves. Tom Mathies stated that he has a background in computer science. He is interested in becoming a member of the Commission although he has no specific projects to pursue at this time if appointed. Mr. Mathies stated he has planted native species on his parcel as has his neighbor along an adjoining property line that contains a prairie remnant. Karen Godshall stated she is retired from the Department of Workforce Development as an administrative law judge, but still active in the community. She has a wooded parcel adjacent to the Redden Soccer Park. She has an interest in using her communication skills to keep the residents of the Town informed about current and future events, plans, and considerations if appointed to this commission. C-T Wright explained that the Town Chair ultimately appoints new members to Commissions; Mathies and Godshall should provide David Combs with a letter of interest prior to the next meeting of this body.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Miller to approve the February minutes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Hoffman. Chair Keen noted that on page two, item 5 that the word *national* should read *natural* instead. Motion carried to approve minutes as amended.

### **Update on Property Purchase from the Bruce Company**

Chair Keen reported that there is nothing new to report on this topic. Keen showed visiting attendees the location of the two properties (most of which is in the Town of Montrose) and reviewed the proposed ownership and future use if purchased. Without objection, this item will be added to the April agenda.

### **Update on Trimming and Brushing Statement of Policy**

The Town Board will discuss whether the OSPC members should review the Brushing and Trimming policy at their rescheduled meeting on March 12, 2013. It was uncertain to those present whether the Town Board adopted the recommendations of this body that were made in 2012. Member Miller stated that many claims have recently been submitted to the Town Board to review alleged personal property damage within the public right-of-way (ROW). Miller stated that one such claim resulted from the removal of a tree within the ROW for the purposes of maintaining a vision triangle for public safety at the intersection of two Town roads. These new developments will likely require further amendments to the current brushing policy in addition to those suggestions offered previously by this commission. The members discussed a variety of ways to remind residents of the Town authority within the ROW including: mailing with tax bills, a mailing with change of assessment notifications, postings on the Town website, emails to the subscribers of the Town's e-newsletter, and physical postings with agendas.

### **Discussion of the Department of Natural Resources Access to the Sugar River**

C-T Wright was originally scheduled to meet with Matt Zine and Steve Rehlinger earlier today. The meeting has been rescheduled to April 8, 2013 due to today's inclement weather. Wright explained

that Governor Walker has called for increased access to public lands and has set aside State money to make this possible. Chair Keen showed Ms. Godshall and Mr. Mathies the location of the proposed lot on an aerial map.

**Establish an Agenda for the April Meeting**

The following items were suggested for the April meeting: Call to Order; Approval of Agenda; Public Comments; Approval of Meeting Minutes from the March 6, 2013 Meeting; Update on Property Purchase from the Bruce Company; Update on Town Transition with the Verona Fire Department; Review Trimming and Brushing Statement Policy; Discussion of the Department of Natural Resources Access to the Sugar River; Establish May Agenda; and Adjourn.

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Miller; 2nd by Hoffman. Motion carried at 8:20 PM.

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John Wright  
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 4/17/2013