

**Town of New Glarus
Parks Commission Minutes
Thursday February 14, 2013 @ 6:30 pm**

ATTENDING: Dana Emmerton, Chris Reis, Chris Narveson, Pete Raskovic and Susan McCallum, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Andy Elkins

ALSO ATTENDING: Adam Ingwell

CALL TO ORDER: C. Narveson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Proof of Posting: S. McCallum, Deputy Clerk confirmed proper posting.
2. Approve Minutes of January 17, 2013: Minutes were reviewed, C. Reis moved to approve the minutes as presented. 2nd by D. Emmerton. Motion carried.
3. Public Comments: None
4. Discussion with Adam Ingwell regarding Blue Bird Ridge Conservancy maintenance planning:

Adam Ingwell is a resident in the neighborhood of the conservancy and he is offering as a volunteer to review the conservancy and come up with a simple plan for maintenance, to then be monitored and adapted based on needs and updated yearly. He would meet with commission quarterly to review and work together on planning and implementing. C. Reis wondered who knows it's there and what amenities it has currently. A. Ingwell said there is a picnic table and mowed paths. There was general discussion on suggestions to promote the park, perhaps a display at the tree workshop. A. Ingwell wondered whether there were funds for actions and he would also like to know the specific boundaries. The Deputy Clerk will forward him boundary information. C. Narveson explained that each year the commission puts monies into the budget for maintenance, in 2013 \$1,839 for mowing, burn and 5 year plan. The committee would like a plan with a timeline of activities etc. D. Emmerton would like guidance on where to install blue bird houses and offered the girl and boy scouts to clean out houses yearly. The committee designated A. Ingwell as their official liaison to BBRC and he will be back for the April meeting. He left at 7:15pm. C. Reis again asked is there parking and if we put it on Facebook what would entice people to go there? Parking is on the road and there is a 50 ft. easement that goes to the conservancy. P. Raskovic related a story about a park where he was from, where there were bird watching stations which each had a bench and a fence with feeders. C. Reis said a lot of people are interested in bird watching. Others agreed this would be a good way to have people utilize the area; another suggestion was to post identifying markers for plants. D. Emmerton thinks then the schools would use the conservancy. P. Raskovic suggested schools could plant a section of native plants and D.Emmerton stated that possibly Eagle Scout's could make this a project. P. Raskovic suggested using the Park Logo as boundary markers and he will try and get pictures of feeding stations including fence design.

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5. Review; recruitment efforts, program updates form, 2013 budget, informational handouts:

The commission reviewed the program flier and a copy of article on the recruitment press release, a person was to be at this meeting that saw the flier at Roy's. Deputy Clerk McCallum will contact him for future events and attendance. Reviewed Programming Updates, all agreed yes do the barn workshop as it is one of the resources in the township that will be deteriorating in the future and then residents will know what to do to prevent further decay. The Commission reviewed their budget; the Deputy Clerk did not include 2013 because no monies have been spent. There have been funds spent from the 2012 hold over so she created a new column where members can see the draw down. They reviewed handouts for the Bird Count program (decided to add it to Facebook page in the future) and The Prairie Enthusiasts membership for discussion at the next meeting plus other materials, including possibly using these at the tree workshop and sales. C. Narveson stated they have easements and purchases for conservancy and are similar to our interests.

6. Review and discuss impact fees information: The Deputy Clerk handed out the Town's impact fee ordinance and Letter Of Intent for the Library project. C. Narveson explained the funding mechanism in the boundary agreement and the Library funding. Our contributions will be going up each year; the town already gives additional equipment to Library, some years more than others. We will be helping with the maintenance of the Library; it will be a joint venture with the village. In the agreement the town is renting space for town hall/offices to offset costs. We will be using sinking funds to prepay for a rent reduction for 20 years. The formula includes shared and capped expenses. There have been proposed changes to funding. The town's plans are to use all of the Community Fund and a portion of Park Commission Sinking funds. P. Raskovic felt even with impact fees there will be continued pressure to develop when the economy picks up, so we should be concerned about building our open space. C. Narveson said they almost purchased land on Hwy 60 but it fell through and that the town has ordinances on development (with open space requirements) and the boundary agreement limits growth beyond the village boundary for 20 years; the village has 300 lots ready to develop now. All were in agreement that you cannot or would not want to prevent residents from selling or developing their property.

7. Discuss trails and easements: Deputy Clerk McCallum handed out information to review on Back Town, purchase of easements and land purchased in Belleville. P. Raskovic said that one of the reasons he joined the commission is because of what he saw happen where he came from where open space was increasingly developed. A general question was, how do you go about asking someone to donate or give easements? C. Narveson said now with budget constraints we won't have monies for purchases, we will need to look for grants and stewardship funds such as the TPE and letter from DNR about Nelson Stewardship funds. S. McCallum gave information to

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D. Emmerton on grant writing workshops, paid or free, for her to review for future participation. The commission had a general question, why wasn't an access lane or off road parking ever developed for BBR Conservancy? C. Narveson said before we worry about access we need to develop desire to use the area and then respond to resident's concerns for parking on the road.

8. Discuss Educational Workshop in regards to Barn Renovations: P. Raskovic wondered whether this would be beneficial to the commission. They all felt yes, D. Emmerton said she wished she had the information when they had someone come in to work on their barn. C. Narveson said the barns currently in the township are deteriorating and this is needed. So the decision is to do something in the Fall, early September on a Thursday night maybe on a regular meeting night. P. Raskovic will look into this more.

9. Discuss and consider changes to Website and Facebook page: Deputy Clerk, McCallum showed the commission their Facebook page she created and discussed current limitations based on the critical "likes" number, 30. She handed out guidelines for a page and how it operates. We will be able to post events, pictures, movies and more. She also said that her personal experience in a non-profit has been that this no cost presence is very helpful in promoting your events. S. McCallum said that she is the current designated administrator and we are viewing additional information this designation accesses. She tried to add the Commission logo as the cover picture but couldn't get it to upload correctly and she added the BBRC sign as the profile picture. P. Raskovic said he would have his daughter contact her with an adapted copy of the logo for posting. S. McCallum showed the group how to access the Commission page from their personal account or general public access and what they would see that is different than the administrator access. People that visit our page can post on our news feed and comment; the administrator is sent a notification. She asked the members to consider naming their page for the next meeting, as this facilitates publicizing your page instead of the very long original name/address. Someone needs to bring a camera to the meeting in March to take pictures of the scouts presenting the houses for publication. D. Emmerton asked whether we could do a press release on the event. S. McCallum also asked who else would like to become an administrator for the page.

S. McCallum informed the commission that she had contacted the web site maintenance person to update the site. The request for the home page was to remove the spring clean-up from the bottom replaced with recruitment, this had been done, and at the top a notice of tree workshop and sales. This did not work out as she expected, so she will follow-up. P. Raskovic said that if you copy the website address and place it into a posting on the Facebook page and then in the comment section say what it is it will link to our website where the information is located. Additional changes to website; change home page picture seasonal or other interesting township places, update D. Emmerton as a member, google ap for weather from the New Glarus weather station, and pictures of trees for sale.

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10. Schedule Next Meeting and Set Agenda including Cub Scouts presentation at March meeting: Presentation at beginning of regular meeting date, March 14 at 7:00pm.

11. Adjourn to assemble Workshop and Tree Sales mailing: C. Narveson motioned to adjourn at 9:47pm. 2nd by C. Reis. Motion carried.