

**Town of New Glarus
Parks Commission Minutes
Wednesday May 8, 2013 @ 7:30 pm**

ATTENDING: Dana Emmerton, Andy Elkins, Chris Reis, Chris Narveson and Susan McCallum, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Pete Raskovic

ALSO ATTENDING: Chris Roberts, Prairie Bluff Chapter, TPE

CALL TO ORDER: C. Narveson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Proof of Posting: S. McCallum, Deputy Clerk confirmed proper posting.
2. Approve Minutes of April 1, 2013: Minutes reviewed, A. Elkins moved to approve the minutes as presented, 2nd by C. Reis. Motion carried.
3. Public Comments: None
4. Discuss and consider: BBRC boundary marking survey, bird watching stations, update from Adam Ingwell: No update from A. Ingwell. C. Narveson had information on surveying, if all twelve corner pins are there it would be \$800 or less but should budget for \$1,200. A. Elkins wondered how they would mark them; he would like fence post markers not staves. C. Narveson felt this would be included in the cost. D. Emmerton wondered whether they could use some of the posts for installation of the blue bird houses. Discussion included having scouts locate the pins. It was decided to see if they would before paying for a survey. S. McCallum will look for a CSM of the lot for the scouts to utilize. There wasn't an update on the bird watching stations, blue bird houses have not yet been installed but is scheduled for Monday May 20th. It was decided to include the boundary marking project on the next agenda.
5. Review and consider; handouts, program updates form, 2012/2013 budget-donation/.purpose for Arbor Day, Paul Jennrich: McCallum handed out a newspaper article regarding Mary Ann Buenzow; our last speaker's superior, how she came to the aid of a community and a tree. D. Emmerton mentioned that at the tree workshop someone attending was interested in a program on bees. The group discussed whether this would be a possibility and when. C. Narveson suggested we develop a list of possible activities, as the tree sales were very successful. There weren't any deciduous trees left, in two hours of sales starting all were gone. There was a discussion regarding pre-selling for 2014, and then a little over for extra sales to be open to the public, paying for half of the order ahead of sales. There could be a price difference, more expensive for open sales. Then use this deposit from pre-orders to offset the commission budget. This could be offered at the Barn Workshop, or they can stop into Town office by the 1st of November. Pines are going to be an issue; A. Elkins just got the rest of the order last weekend. There are some presold with one person taking 100 at regular price. Remaining trees include about 15 Balsam, 50 Juniper, 45 Spruce and 75 white pines that were donated. The commission discussed various options for completion of sales. It was decided to sell at regular price and then offer any others left free. It was decided that because this is very time sensitive for

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planting, S. McCallum will email all town board and commission members. If they are interested they need to email or call A. Elkins by this Friday pm with pick up a few days later. Include continued discussion of 2014 sales with Barn Workshop discussions.

A. Elkins moved to approve a \$300 Arbor Day donation in care of Paul Jennrich, D. Emmerton 2nd. Motion carried.

6. Discuss trails and easements; consider dues for joining TPE- Representative from Prairie Bluff Chapter: Chris Roberts from this chapter was present and suggested a \$200 organization dues level. When sent in this would be designated for their chapter, they meet the first Tuesday of the month, 7pm at the Monroe Library. Location is in small meeting room at the back right rear of the library, they won't meet again until September. He wondered what property the town currently has, C. Narveson reviewed the BBRC including actions taken to date. C. Roberts stated that seeding is a long slow process for development, his group has been working on restoration at Magnolia Bluff Park in Rock County, their chapter work days are on Mondays. He suggested a field trip for this group to see what they have done at this location. He discussed the current and past events taken place with the prairie restoration on the bluff. The commission had general questions regarding burning, spring burns clean fall growth to prevent shading of prairie plants and the black char heats the ground. He said TPE prioritizes as follows for burns; their own, then members and then others paying for the service with highest payments first. To remove woody growth, he suggested using a generic form of herbicide not round-up for the best value, needs to be a 20-25% mixture, or you won't be effective. He explained how to apply to a cut; you only need to apply to the outer edge because the middle of a tree is dead, certain trees produce a sap at the cut so you need to wipe this off and then apply chemical. TPE uses Garlon 4 and diesel fuel as a carrier for application to trees without cutting.

S. McCallum asked how they proceed acquiring properties. C. Roberts said there is a group from the main organization and they have a Land Acquisition Committee that rates the site. You need to collect data on the property such as; what is not present, rare insects, rare plants, animals, amount of work needed, access and cost. Then a rating is developed by the committee, maximum 125 points, following this they meet with land owner. He reviewed two examples they are currently considering. He talked about what to look for in the rural area, as native landscape, last year's drought worked well for identifying native plants as they were the only ones still green. When you find a piece of prairie they appoint one of their people to talk with the land owner. Follow up visits, and eventually purchase, you want to make sure the area is not land locked. Tom Mitchell is the secretary of this chapter and is involved in work parties, organizing burns and knows prairie plants extensively. You could contact him to look at a property for advice.

C. Narveson asked about grants, C. Roberts said there are many available; such as restoration, preservation and acquisition. If you do get a state grant it becomes state land, SNA (State Natural Area). There are two designated levels, one where they

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were actively involved, and then another lower level where they allow local group control. A. Elkins asked about Postville cemetery, no not SNA, owned by Town of York and managed by a cemetery association. TPE burns there every spring, it is a deep soil prairie; 1" of top soil is created per year in a prairie. Most people are familiar with dry thin soil on top of bluff prairies, not much topsoil, because it wasn't farmed. D. Emmerton asked if trees are a negative for a prairie. He said yes because of the shade they create, a savannah is defined as one tree per acre. He stated that there is a rare cedar growing on the edge of the bluff north on Hwy 69. It is only found here in a 2 mile wide corridor from New Glarus north and along the Mississippi River, found along the steep hills and is low growing. Hills thistle has a very large pink bloom that falls over and seeds that way. One way to tell a native is they have white under leaves and less spines. D. Emmerton asked is golden rod native, yes and there are different species dependent on moisture conditions. C. Roberts suggested ways to eradicate garlic mustard; burn seedlings and a prescribed burn will take out adults (2nd year), pull and cover in tarp for two years so seeds rot (seed in ground is viable for 7 years) and herbicide (25%) in spring before other plants are emerging. He said TPE now has burn insurance and the town would need to sign a liability waiver prior to another burn. There was discussion about a burn next spring. He said that fall takes care of woody items and spring is for invasive plants.

C. Narveson asked whether they would do a workshop. Yes during their slow seasons which are winter and summer. C. Narveson asked when would be the best time so people could go out and work on their land afterwards. He said summer would be a better time. If you collect prairie seed do it from within a 50 mile radius to prevent invasives. Put them in a garage or refrigerator so they get cold, they need that for germination in the spring. C. Roberts left at 8:30.

The commission discussed pros and cons of joining the group. A. Elkins moved, C. Reis 2nd, to spend \$200 to join the Prairie Bluff Chapter of the The Prairie Enthusiasts. Motion carried. C. Narveson moved to take the monies from the Parks Site Evaluation fund from 2012, A. Elkins 2nd. Motion carried.

7. Review and discuss impact fees: Postponed to next month.
8. Discuss and consider: Barn Workshop updates: Postponed to next month.
9. Discuss website and Facebook page updates and administrator training:

C. Narveson stated his feelings are any of the members would/could post to the commission Facebook page, all agreed. It was decided to meet individually with S. McCallum for training. Two members could not be made administrators as they need their own account first, members will follow up.

10. Schedule Next Meeting and Set Agenda: Barn Workshop, Tree Sales 2014, BBRC boundary marking. June 13, 7pm.

11. Adjourn: C. Reis moved to adjourn at 9:30 pm, D. Emmerton 2nd. Motion carried.