

**TOWN OF NEW GLARUS
PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2013
MINUTES**

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

ABSENT: Chris Reis, Pete Raskovic

ALSO ATTENDING: Harry Pulliam, Kim Tschudy

CALL TO ORDER: C. Narveson called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m., no quorum.

AGENDA:

1. Proof of Posting: No action taken, no quorum.
2. Approve Minutes of August 8, 2013 Parks Minutes: No action taken, no quorum.
Review Sept. 11 minutes.
3. Public Comments, possible new member attendance: Harry Pulliam was present to observe. He decided to submit his interest in joining the commission. Information regarding the process was discussed and he received contact names and address to submit a letter of interest.
4. Discuss and consider:
 - a. Barn Workshop: No discussion
 - b. 2014 Trees Program: No discussion
 - c. Trail Easement letters: At the August meeting the commission approved Chair Narveson and Deputy Clerk S. McCallum writing letters to the land owners for the proposed trail location East of Hwy 69. McCallum distributed the letters for review; it was decided to change the wording in the first sentence from “recreational” to walking trails. S. McCallum will include the example pictures of mowed paths in BBRC and the parcel map with trail location highlighted with the letters.
 - d. Maintenance of BBRC sign. After discussing the condition of the sign and possible options it was decided to have S. McCallum talk to the Town Patrolman about him sanding the front and back sides of the sign. A marine grade varnish will be applied to the front of the sign where lettering is located and painting the back side the same color as the uprights. The supporting uprights will also be repainted. It is the hope of the commission to accomplish this work yet this fall.
5. Discuss and Consider 2014 Budget:

website maintenance change, meet with Adam Ingwell-BBRC maintenance plan, Park entrance, bird watching stations, Pool scholarships, Trails development.

No items were discussed except the BBRC maintenance plan with A. Ingwell.

A. Ingwell reported on his process so far regarding maintenance at BBRC. He felt the first

thing of importance was burning every spring because there are remnant native prairie plants but also broom grass (pasture, non native) that would be controlled with the burn. In the open area there are mostly small honeysuckle and prickly ash to be cut by hand to protect native grasses. There are a few very large Box Elder trees next to the large oak trees needing to be removed. H. Pulliam volunteered to remove them for his use, with assistance; Adam will mark them and will meet with him to identify the location. S. McCallum will contact TPE for burning this spring. A. Ingwell offered to identify to groups at the BBRC the remnant prairie plants, the others talked about identifying markers for the plants. They reviewed the yearly budget amount for maintenance of the conservancy. A. Ingwell stated that a lot of brush has come back in where the oaks are located. He has worked with a company that charges \$25/hr/person that can hand cut the brush including herbicide application. He feels in three days for approximately \$1500 - \$2000 range, the work can be done yet this fall or winter. These will come back if the herbicide is not applied to the cut stem but cutting makes the lower re-growth more manageable. Brush that is big enough would be chemically treated, the plan would be to work from the open area and down into ravine, not surpassing \$1,700 that is in the 2013 budget for BBRC maintenance. This person also did the Marvin Smitherman's oak savannah that abuts the property. K. Tschudy said he has blue bird houses constructed and kits, and bat house kits he would be willing to give to the Town for a child/adult activity. The commission thanked him for the donation and expressed their interest. They would probably pair this event with another activity. K. Tschudy said the bird houses would need to be assembled in late February so they would be able to be installed when the birds migrate back. There was general discussion regarding what event and where to assemble. A. Ingwell will research how many bat houses the conservancy could accommodate.

6. Schedule Next Meeting and Set Agenda: Monday October 21, 6:30 pm for expenditure approvals including 2014 budget.

7. Adjourn: Discussion was ended at 10:00 pm.