

**TOWN OF NEW GLARUS
PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2013
AGENDA**

ATTENDING: Chris Narveson, Andy Elkins, Dana Emmerton (arrived at 7:30), Chris Reis, Harry Pulliam and Susan McCallum, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Pete Raskovic

ALSO ATTENDING: Bryan and Cathy MacDonald, Chris Pracheil-DNR Water Management Specialist and Adam Ingwell

CALL TO ORDER: C. Narveson called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

AGENDA:

1. Proof of Posting: Deputy Clerk attested to proper posting.
2. Discuss and consider November 14 minutes:
C. Reis moved to approve the November 14, 2nd A. Elkins. Motion carried.
3. Public Comments, possible new member attendance: None. MacDonalds were present and are interested in joining the commission. C. Narveson explained to them the process to become a commission member and asked them if they are both interested. Bryan said he wants to but Cathy was undecided at this point.
4. Oath of Office; Chris Narveson: S. McCallum administered the oath of office to Chris Narveson.
5. Update: website updates change over, 2014 budget- discuss and consider postage purchase in 2013, handouts: No update for website change. No handouts. S. McCallum reviewed the 2013/2012 budgets with the commissioners including any unspent funds. Some of the unspent funds from the 2013 budget are due to not having a full member commission. H. Pulliam moved to approve up to \$500 in expense for purchase of stamps for 2014 mailings in 2013, to avoid the price increase at beginning of the year, 2nd by D. Emmerton. Motion carried. After discussing unspent monies in per diem and payroll tax funds in the 2013 budget and the success with recruiting two members; A. Elkins motioned to carry over up to \$1,000 in unspent funds from the 2013 budget to the 2014 Parks Workshops/Projects line item, 2nd by H. Pulliam. Motion carried.
6. Discuss: bird watching station construction, tree sales/ordering- Spring workshop, ice rink: S. McCallum brought the commission up to speed on the construction and delivery to the town garage of the panels for the bird watching stations. The price will be without tax, \$850. H. Pulliam talked with someone at the Audubon Society about assisting with locating, he will follow up.

S. McCallum reported on current tree orders, 25 orders/385 trees. A. Elkins said we need to determine how many additional and types. In addition we need to determine the donation with regard to organizations assisting with distribution. His suggestion is here is what we ordered, here is what we have and here is the overage to the groups. Worst case scenario if no one buys the extra we all do not make much but there isn't a loss. There was consensus that both the Boys

and Girls scouts would be invited to participate because they are community orientated with service projects in the community. H. Pulliam wondered about inviting the 4-H in the future, all agreed. We will wait until Tuesday for cut off, S. McCallum will compile numbers of types, A. Elkins will notify everyone with this and then decide what to add to orders, these need to be done in increments of 50. They discussed possible options for increasing the pre-orders. C. Narveson suggested ordering 100% over what has been requested. The MacDonalds felt that people picking up there orders should be told there is extra, market to them. They also felt signage would be necessary for locating the Town Hall as they had difficulty finding it last year.

A. Elkins was contacted by someone about donating money for a real ice rink. There are a number of hockey families and their children have to go to Monroe or Verona. He will confirm with him how much funds he is interested in donating for an outdoor rink. There are companies that make the berms that purposely go around tennis courts and can be removed. The donor is going to research the company. A. Elkins invited him to this meeting but he is involved with his son's hockey on Thursday night but he will ask him to attend a future meeting. C. Narveson felt that the current joint project with the village has not been successful.

7. Discussion with DNR Representative regarding Trail Development, follow-up to property owner communication schedule: C. Pracheil said that a 20' vegetated buffer is needed for the stream bank improvements currently being done on the Little Sugar River, and a trail would assist that requirement. He said a grass mowed path as opposed to a hard surface trail would conform to the drainage ditch vegetation requirement. He spoke about crossing the streams, it is about 40' across from bank to bank and if you put anything below the high water mark you would need a permit for a bridge or anything else. C. Narveson talked about a possible stepping stone crossing. C. Pracheil said if the stepping stones are permeable you could put steps, but it may be a hazard. If there are lower spots you could use a board walk and span some areas, he would need to be consulted. He said it is mapped wetland towards Hwy 69, but all of this area is wetland but tiled to allow it to be worked. He said there are options but the area is going to be wet and a part of the area won't be walk able for probably a month during the year, but the stream is ditched and a trail alongside would be fairly dry. C. Narveson asked if grading would be allowed. C. Pracheil replied, the Little Sugar and Legler School Branch are trout streams and their banks extend 300' feet out from the ordinary high water mark, so any work in this area or total 10,000 sq ft. in total also needs a permit. The other stream, Spring Valley Creek is not, but also has this total sq. ft. or within 75' of the stream. He spoke about the mowing capability of the current work having been done, and was graded with the tree removal and bank stabilization so right now should not need any additional grading. C. Narveson said he was glad to hear this is okay as long as we don't put gravel down, how about a parking area or lot. C. Pracheil said you can't fill a wetland but he is in support of trails along streams as long as land owners are. He said the Blums have done a lot of work on the Hefty Creek property, and there are a lot of trout now, they may be interested in participating. A. Elkins asked about a bridge type structure, what is legal. All permits go through C. Pracheil or someone else for general permits, there are criteria for this installation such as; 5' clearance above the normal high water mark (or a waiver for non-navigable), has to be anchored so it doesn't float down stream due to flooding, snowmobile bridge, or two logs he doesn't care as long as you stay out of the stream, high water mark and restore any disturbed area. The fiord concept takes more space with slope grading etc. H. Pulliam felt from his perspective the bridge is a better idea, even though it is more expensive, for safety as opposed to stepping stones. C. Pracheil said there is prefab out there; farmers are creative with what they use and probably an Eagle Scout that could do a project. A. Elkins related his experience creating a pole crossing. C. Pracheil felt that as long as you are not going to fill in

anything and also a clearance can be waived, so if people want to navigate or you give an alternate way around, he can issue a waiver. C. Narveson asked what about people that have given access easements; C. Pracheil said they have it posted for whatever type of easement they have been compensated. He said that between Ward Creek, Legler School Branch, Spring Valley Creek and maybe two or three more all in the drainage district; these all have the set aside. So there is great opportunity in the entire drainage district. There was general discussion regarding use of a trail including groomed cross country. C. Pracheil supports the concept and the DNR would as well, getting people close to the resource. He said he could work with the group on a bridge design. Trout Unlimited puts money towards streams, but probably not the Little Sugar River as it is too straight.

No response from property owners. There was discussion how best to approach the land owners at this point and we now know that the trail would be in the 20 foot buffer. C. Narveson volunteered to contact the owners personally.

8. Discussion with Adam Ingwell, BBRC work completed in 2013. S. McCallum informed the commission about the invoice from Stephen Fabos of Indigenous Restorations regarding the work done at BBRC. A. Ingwell reported that he said when he was working he saw bluebirds. All the heavier areas and the open area were completed and he found remnant prairie plants such as blue stem, also native Elderberry and Viburnum shrubs. C. Narveson asked about sumac removal. A. Ingwell said it works better with application on leaves, as recommended by Stephen, but the plants have encroached onto private lands and we will need to be careful with the spray. A. Ingwell suggested next spring's burn; there might be a pile of brush that could be burned up at that time. He needs to talk about how to address the larger trees. H. Pulliam said he has spoken with Badger Woodturners, Dave Hiller in Monticello, would rather use green wood. He recommends girdling in the spring. He said his concept is to take them out late winter or early spring, and don't girdle at all. H. Pulliam asked Hiller if they would actually take them down. He said no but they would cut up and haul out. C. Narveson asked how many of the trees are down there are they going to want them all. A. Ingwell said there are one very large and a couple medium size, so yes. He said also the small 2-3" cherry trees, 3 or 4 box elders and 2 cherry trees. Bryan MacDonald said he would cut them down; he can do this any time. H. Pulliam suggested coordinating with the turners and they will haul away at the same time. Then burn some left in the spring. H. Pulliam volunteered to be responsible for coordinating this project, suggesting late February. A. Ingwell felt the work was well done, meticulous and individually treated what was cut. H. Pulliam wondered about a future discussion about a town park wayfarer sign. There was consensus to look into the potential cost and requirements for a sign on a state highway, S. McCallum will research. A. Ingwell brought information on grant monies, Jason Thomas- NRCS in Monroe, but only monies for private land owners and Mike Engall- Fish and Wildlife management. He will call him to find out what is available and also mention the bird blinds.

H. Pulliam asked about the Stewardship Grant program and how we can access because of the update of the Parks Plan in 2011 and he would like to follow-up. There was a discussion regarding easements and do you pay. S. McCallum said she had some information from a 2009 meeting. H. Pulliam asked if she had those electronically. S. McCallum will look and forward by email if she does.

9. Schedule Next Meeting and Set Agenda, joint meeting schedule: January 9, 7:00pm for joint meeting the Commission at 6pm- Ice rink, tree follow-up/workshop schedule, trails update.

10. Adjourn: A. Elkins moved to adjourn at 9:50 pm, 2nd by D. Emmerton. Motion carried.