

**TOWN OF NEW GLARUS
PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES
MAY 22, 2014
AGENDA**

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

ABSENT: Pete Raskovic

ALSO ATTENDING: Chris and Andrew Newberry.

CALL TO ORDER: A. Elkins 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 April 10, 2014 minutes:
 - A. Elkins moved to approve the April 10 minutes, 2nd D. Emmerton. Motion carried.
 - C. Narveson abstained as he was not in attendance.
3. Public Comments: None.
4. Updates: Hwy sign BBRC, Prairie burn BBRC, storage shed, tree program results, Impact fees memo, workshop thank-yous.

S. McCallum passed out information on restrictions to a highway sign for the BBRC, profit and loss for tree sales- netted \$1,247.00 (A. Elkins gave Deputy Clerk \$14 cash in additional sales) and impact fees memo. D. Emmerton wondered if we could add a sign to the Windmill subdivision sign for the BBRC. There was general discussion on the neighbors' reaction. S. McCallum suggested asking Adam Ingwell to explore the possibility. C. Narveson suggested as an alternate it could be in the roadway right away on the Windmill Ridge Rd. D. Emmerton suggested giving them a choice between the two ideas. C. Narveson stated to revisit this at the next meeting because they would like it erected this summer.

H. Pulliam asked that someone else from the commission view the site within the month, to see what all is left from tree cutting. A. Elkins volunteered to assist. The Badger Woodturners took a lot of wood, but there is still about 100 6' diameter logs, mostly box elder strewn about. He feels at the very least these need to be stacked, they are good for burning. There are 2 or 3 piles of brush debris of smaller branches in which one may be good for habitat and 3 large stumps. There is also bur oak debris from earlier activities. He spoke with someone at the workshop who suggested the fall workshop could be done at this location including a bonfire and an Audubon speaker on using the blinds. There was consensus this would be a great concept for September or early October, possibly Friday or Saturday starting time earlier in the evening. D. Emmerton said the fall workshop had planned to be on bees. C. Narveson asked the members to check their calendars and discuss at next month's meeting.

S. McCallum informed the commission that the owner of the shed has rescinded his offer.

The spring workshop was reviewed; attendance was low due to various elements including cold and rainy weather. The commission really liked the bat presentation. Discussion included maybe for the next workshop only one speaker because the time gets too long and a warmer location such as the town hall. S. McCallum asked whether they would like to send a formal thank-you to the speakers at the workshop. C. Narveson suggested changing the orders for next

year, presales went well, but extras cut back to just so many, such as 50, could have had more pine and less deciduous. H. Pulliam suggested involving Corey Secher before ordering as he could assist with direction. A. Elkins suggested Chris Newberry and also contacting other youth groups for a fundraiser. C. Narveson said he felt the pricing was good. A. Elkins said he has pin and red oaks left. All agreed. H. Pulliam asked what happened

Also distributed an email from A. Ingwell regarding grant program with USFS, the Library's Director's report 4/8/14, Impact Fee memo, copies of receipts that were paid, thank-you for joining letter from TPE and joint letter to the editor regarding dog park land.

S. McCallum asked whether the commission would like to issue a thank-you to the two speakers. It was agreed to send a written thank-you. Members said they were very knowledgeable. C. Secher gave specifics on care from planting through the life of the tree, including how to distribute the roots, how garlic mustard disrupts ecosystem, very informative on what impacts trees, ability to answer questions and information on emerald ash borer. In spite of the cold weather, they did well. H. Kaarakka presented amazing information on the large types of bats, numbers and decline due to white nose syndrome, how many caves there are locally, the migration paths of bats, the variety of programs for training bat counters and not to wear the same foot gear from cave to cave. It was a consensus to invite her back and have them as solo speakers. Suggestions to consider; more workshops per year, but less expensive advertising instead of mailing and not at a place with fees.

5. Discuss and consider:

a. BBRC sign maintenance, Park Boundaries markings, Installation of Bird Blinds/EagleScout.

The sign needs sanding and sealing. D. Emmerton suggested getting girl scouts involved. A. Elkins will contact a leader. S. McCallum suggested painting the back side as it is discolored from wear, maybe a mural. There is not power at the site, C. Narveson has a battery operated sanding tool to loan. It would be good to have it done before the fall event. It was discussed to also pay a child to do the work as a summer job. A. Elkins has a power converter and this could be used for a palm sander. C. Narveson has a large one that works, but you have to be careful not to drain the car battery. H. Pulliam suggested using spar varnish which would last longer. C. Narveson moved to spend up to \$200 in labor and \$50 in materials to maintain the sign, 2nd by H. Pulliam. Motion carried. D. Emmerton and A. Elkins will look for youth to do the work and D. Emmerton will supervise.

H. Pulliam moved to postpone the discussion regarding park boundaries until Adam Ingwell can attend a meeting, without objection. H. Pulliam also said he had difficulty determining the boundaries as well and it would be helpful to have boundary signs. C. Narveson suggested when we order trees next year we plan for an order to plant for the boundaries. All agreed that initially we put in some posts as markers. A. Elkins said he needs to identify the west side, using a metal detector to locate pins.

Andrew Newberry spoke to the commission regarding construction and installation of bird blinds as an Eagle Scout project. A. Elkins said we have constructed panels at New Glarus Lumber that need to be installed. H. Pulliam met A. Newberry at the tree sales and discussed a time to view the park, he suggested in July. He also spoke with John Peterson from the Audabon Society for technical help with siting the blinds. A. Elkins explained the Eagle Scout program, and the need for a mentor (H. Pulliam) and a coach (A. Elkins). He explained that a program is more than just installing the current panels, this would include also building one from scratch and installing both. H. Pulliam will also put A. Newberry in touch with J. Peterson to assist with researching a location for the blinds at the conservancy. A. Elkins moved to approve

Andrew Newberry to take charge of researching , assembly and installing two bird blinds at the BBRC, 2nd by D. Emmerton. Motion carried. A. Elkins asked A. Newberry do we have a time table. He said yes sometime in July. A. Elkins asked that it not be the last week. H. Pulliam asked is he including other troop members, yes they are using it as a project toward conservation badge. C. Reis moved to approve the purchase of materials for a bird blind up to \$500, 2nd by H. Pulliam. Motion carried.

b. Pool Scholarship Program, proposal for board approval. There was general consensus that the draft application is good, and suggested cover letter be used to explain the program to the board for June 11. A. Elkins suggested that if a qualified applicant has already purchased a pool pass for this year they would be reimbursed the \$50 with proof of purchase. D. Emmerton moved that we will award 6 \$50 scholarships per household and if there is not enough applicants by the end of July the remainder will be awarded in chronological order to qualifying applicants, 2nd by C. Reis. Motion carried.

c. Monthly Meeting Schedule: C. Narveson said he still has trouble with Thursdays except the third one. The next meeting will be on June 19 at 7:15pm. This is based on the Plan Commission moving their regular meeting night, otherwise it will be the fourth Thursday in June.

d. Presentation of monies to scouts: A. Elkins will invite them for the June 19 meeting and take pictures for a press release. D. Emmerton moved to make two checks from the profits, evenly divided between Boy and Girl Scout Troops that assisted at tree sales, for the next meeting, 2nd C. Reis. Motion carried.

e. Trail Easements: C. Narveson said he has not pursued the easements. All agreed it needs to be a personal approach. A. Elkins felt another approach is needed, present to them the ability to provide more walking space, outlining the property owner's sacrifice. D. Emmerton felt that another talking point would be that it is more advantageous to have fisherman use a trail rather than their land. Due to current improvements the letter would address the upgrades and better access. This would include a personal contact handing the information. A. Elkins felt the first would be the Brewery. D. Emmerton said if they agree we could give them a thank-you and a picture in the paper. C. Narveson suggested it could be introduced as a two year trial, with a five year extension. A. Elkins said that Chris Newberry could mark the updates to the stream improvements map, S. McCallum will contact him. After the June meeting visits will be scheduled. The difficult parcel is the Rosa Bahler as it is in a trust addressed to Orfordville. D. Emmerton suggested we send a letter stating what we would do unless we hear from them. A. Elkins said at the joint meeting there was discussion about putting a bridge behind Roy's to connect to the soccer field. We may be able to use that for our project. Hans Lenzlinger owns the mini-golf and he might be amenable to an easement. There was discussion regarding the ability to use the trails with dogs and concern for disposing of their waste.

6. Discuss:

a. Ideas from joint meeting; trail along river, soccer field. A. Elkins said the village is putting a bridge behind Roy's where it bumps out, over the stream to the soccer field and a possible sidewalk. This may allow us to connect the town project due to the proximity to the mini golf, owned by Hans Lenzlinger. H. Pulliam reported that the grant for the dog park was not awarded as it was not detailed enough and they were going to resubmit this fall. A. Elkins

addressed the absence of the ice rink including liner issue and their stance on lack of use.

b. Fall workshop ideas. The plans last fall were to do a bee workshop, it was discussed that the bonfire at BBRC could be done on a Friday night, earlier evening before it gets dark, September as opposed to October.

7. Schedule Next Meeting and Set Agenda: June 19 tentative to Plan Commission, 7:15pm.

Trail easements, award scouts, revisit monthly meeting schedule, pool scholarship program update, BBRC new sign/repairs and boundary marking, bird blinds update, impact fees discussion, ice rink.

8. Adjourn: A. Elkins moved to adjourn at 9:35 pm, 2nd by D. Emmerton. Motion carried.