

**TOWN OF NEW GLARUS
PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 20, 2015
MINUTES**

ATTENDING: Chris Narveson, Dana Emmerton, Chris Reis(arrived at 7:10pm), Harry Pulliam, Andy Elkins and Susan McCallum, Deputy Clerk.

ABSENT:

ALSO ATTENDING: Helen Viskup, Joshua and Ann Angel, Justin Griffin, Nehemia Norieja, Ben Norieja, Dale Emmerton and Andrew Emmerton (arrived at 7:50 pm).
All guests left at 8:30pm.

CALL TO ORDER: H. Pulliam called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

AGENDA:

1. Proof of Posting: S. McCallum attested that the agenda was properly posted.
2. Discuss and consider April 29, 2015 minutes:
C. Narveson moved to approve the April 29, 2015 minutes, 2nd C. Reis. Motion carried.
3. Public Comments: None.
4. Discussion with Joshua Angel regarding aquaponics systems: Joshua Angel presented a power point on Aquaponics which he has been promoting for five years. He believes that this is the future of produce agriculture; which is sustainable and accountable to the environment. He showed statistics on higher production in a smaller footprint with less input. He explained that Aquaponics combines fish farming with soilless plant production, a recirculation system where the only input is the food fed to the fish. One square foot of aquaculture yields what four feet of conventional agriculture yields. The systems can be as small as a table top or a large commercial system such as in Paoli where there is a 10,000 sq. ft. facility. A system takes about 6 – 9 months to mature, for the bacteria to be established. The system mimics nature.
He provided a picture of his own system in his apartment that was made out of a china cabinet. C. Reis asked if he uses grow lights. Yes. He has a 30 gallon tank with 6 fish, two of whom are cleaners. S. McCallum asked what is the source of water. He replied that he uses tap water and his apartment system includes pumps to move the water, filtration systems and a water holding system. He uses a closed system because of the lack of humidity inside during the winter.
He presented ways that the Town could utilize the system. Such as; community gardens, educational frontier, workshop and tourism draw. D. Emmerton wondered how plants grow in water as she has overwatered plants. He said it is not the overwatering it is the lack of oxygen for the roots so that his system utilizes the fish tank aerator to incorporate oxygen.
Discussion continued regarding maintenance and heating in our climate, suitable plants and pollination, government regulations, cost of a system, how much is produced.
He is proposing a 5,000 square foot system with a hoop house for the Town. This would provide a large source of produce for it's' residents and could be designed as a CSA. H. Pulliam felt this project would be an opportunity to partner with one or more agricultural entities and pursue grants. An obstacle for the town is funding. The new Town Hall location was presented to Angel and included a discussion regarding space restrictions. D. Emmerton suggested he contact the FFA counselor for a partnership with the school. C. Narveson brought up the FFA pond on Hwy 69 and its' land surrounding as a location for a large scale project. There continued discussion regarding the suitability and ownership of this location, groups that would maintain a

facility and what would be the market.

S. McCallum suggested that they consider establishing a small system in the new Town Hall and use this to introduce the concept to the community. Would it be possible to start with one in the current hall and then move to the new location. All agreed that this could be used as a workshop opportunity and introduction to the community. Angel said this would be possible, you would just need to decide where it would be located in this building and then in the new one, so he would design it for moving. H. Pulliam suggested that Angel work with McCallum to put together a project proposal for them to evaluate. Angel said he would draft a concept for an office system. It was decided that they will evaluate the idea, how to utilize this idea in the community, determine a cost and available budget at their next meeting.

5. Discussion with BBRC Liaison, A. Ingwell: Unable to attend, he and Steve Fabos need to decide what invasive species have grown into the cleared areas to formulate the next steps.

6. Discuss and consider Tree Sales Program: Boy/Girl Scout Fundraiser monies approval
\$ each, shipping charge and additional trees for Schumachers \$41.60: D. Emmerton recounted that there are maples and tamarack remaining, about 100 total. Scout leaders suggested all orders should be in full as it is confusing and collecting money is difficult. The sales years were reviewed and the second year was the best. The white pines always sell, this year the Burr Oak and Hickory were the best selling. Suggestions for next year; pre-order less, advertising in advance is key for the day after sales and sales at Roys worked well. McCallum handed out a profit and loss statement for the sales: pre-sales were \$1,535, day of sales were \$320 for a total of \$1,855; costs included: Green County \$760 and Schumachers \$414.55 for a total of \$1,175.55. Profit was \$680.45.

D. Emmerton moved to approve \$41.60 for Schumachers, 2nd by C. Reis. Motion carried.

A. Elkins moved to pay the Boy Scout Troop 106 and Girl Scout Troop 2037; \$340.22 each, 2nd by C. Narveson. Motion carried. In addition the remaining trees will be donated to the scout groups to do with as they can.

7. Follow-up regarding viewing of new Town Hall location: The landscape architect has just made contact with the new town hall architect.

8. Discuss trail location (s): H. Pulliam recounted where we are in the process. The DNR determined it is a wet land and grubbing of trees would not be allowed. He has spoken with both property owners; Deb Carey is opposed to any tree removal along the creek but supports the overall project idea and Brian Voegli is concerned about people trespassing on their crops. The consensus was to begin review again of the town topography for other locations. A. Elkins mentioned Al Leinhardt who is a local real estate agent with Restaino & Associates, he knows many properties and may be a resource. There was consensus to stay near the village.

9. Review 2015 budget and impact fees: S. McCallum informed the Commission that their budget needs to be reviewed and adjustments made to expenditure line items due to the Town Board reducing their submitted budget by \$1,981 and that no one applied for the pool scholarships. There was general discussion and questions on current categories and balances in the impact fees. The budget and impact fees will be addressed on next month's agenda.

10. Adjourn: The Village Parks Committee has asked to have a joint meeting, this would be the normal joint month of July. The Commission agrees to get together sometime between the 13th and 20th. Next monthly meeting is Wednesday June 17th at 7pm.

C. Narveson moved to adjourn at 9:28 pm, 2nd by A. Elkins. Motion carried.