

**TOWN OF NEW GLARUS  
PARKS COMMISSION MEETING  
OCTOBER 28, 2015  
MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** Chris Narveson, Dana Emmerton, Harry Pulliam, Andy Elkins and Susan McCallum, Deputy Clerk.

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Steve Fabos, April Prusha, Chuck Sasso and Adam Ingwell.

**CALL TO ORDER:** H. Pulliam called the meeting to order at 7: 02 p.m.

**AGENDA:**

1. Proof of Posting: S. McCallum attested that the agenda was properly posted.
2. Discuss and consider September 9, 2015 minutes:  
C. Narveson moved to approve the September 9, 2015 minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> A. Elkins. Motion carried.
3. Public Comments: None.

4. Presentation by Indigenous Restorations and discuss maintenance of Blue Bird Ridge Conservancy. H. Pulliam asked the residents in attendance if they had any input as the Commission has been working to restore and improve the park. D. Emmerton stated that she received a call this evening from a property owner nearby that hadn't received an invitation and had a few comments; concerned that the boundaries are not identified, open and closed hours posted, dogs running loose bothering dogs in adjacent properties and a defined parking area. Chuck Sasso said he has not seen a parking problem, he has occasionally seen a single car or two along the road. Adam Ingwell said he has not noticed a dog problem, he occasionally walks his dog in the park. H. Pulliam gave background information on the park's history and that the commission wants to continue to enhance the public park and hopes to be an excellent neighbor. H. Pulliam asked of the people in attendance if there is anything they would like to see the commission do in the park. C. Sasso said the addition of the Blue Bird houses was nice, he had previously installed a couple houses in the BBRC. A. Ingwell said that he agreed they need to be cleaned. Steve Fabos suggested a school children event in the spring. D. Emmerton suggested the scouts, commission members agreed that if the local residents don't work out a schedule the commission will contact the scouts. C. Sasso said they need to be cleaned on a regular basis after each hatch and fledgling, more than once a season. Ingwell and Sasso offered to work together to clean them and H. Pulliam suggested forming a local group to address maintenance at the park.

H. Pulliam introduced Steve Fabos, the person that has done the work at the BBRC, he asked him to address the people in attendance. S. Fabos said he has talked with A. Ingwell all along and addressed the Town Parks Commission regarding a maintenance and restoration plan. He stated it is a natural oak savannah/prairie and to restore it to this form there needs to be removal of invasive species, including spraying of weeds and woody brush. In addition yearly burn offs and tree clearing on the northern boundary are needed. This was started last year with Box Elders that were growing into the prairie. In additional discussions there is a plan to remove trees and brush on the northern boundary. This area holds a remnant prairie in the larger open area of the park, so continue to burn and then inter-seed in this and the oak savannah areas. C. Sasso stated he has a current small 7/10<sup>th</sup> of an acre prairie on his lot and has also done a 1/2 acre prairie restoration on

a previous lot. A. Ingwell recounted his interest in the remnant areas in the Windmill Ridge neighborhood, the volunteer Side Oaks Graman plant in his yard and other prairie plants in the vacant lots.

There was a general discussion regarding contacting the owners on the northern and eastern boundaries to start the process of tree and sumac removal. D. Emmerton suggested starting with one owner and then the others would see the process including replanting and be more likely to accept the work. It was decided to offer bushes or a Burr Oak ordered through the tree sales program for replanting. Discussion included sending one of the neighbors a special letter asking for the permission with the form, inviting them to the next meeting, or making a personal attempt. It was decided that the Deputy Clerk will send the two northern boundary residents a letter asking for a face to face meeting, discussing what is going on in the park and explain the replanting. S. Fabos could do the work at any time this fall.

They reviewed the email and seed types offered by the Northwest Illinois Chapter of the TPE. S. Fabos said mesic refers to the soil type, Dry Mesic being a medium dry soil type and the BBRC is between Dry Mesic and Mesic soil. So he would recommend the Dry Mesic mix. H. Pulliam asked how he thought the price compared. S. Fabos said their price of \$28.00 per 1,000 sq. ft. was very reasonable, similar to who he buys from, Agrecol. C. Narveson moved to spend up to \$300 for Dry Mesic Mix from the TPE Northwest Illinois, 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Elkins. Motion carried. S. McCallum will contact the group to give them notice we will be ordering and S. Fabos will follow-up with the Deputy Clerk regarding quantity.

A. Elkins expressed his concern for the entrance strip from the road and the amount of thistle in this area. He wondered if this would be a place for seeding. S. Fabos said he had avoided this area because it is narrow and close to residence's properties and was not clear as to where the boundary is located, but there are woody plants needing removal. A. Elkins stated there are a few fence post markers. The commission directed him to address this park area. Boundary marking styles and/or types were discussed and it was decided to address these at a future meeting.

5. Discuss and consider 2016 Tree Sales program. The commission reviewed the offerings from Green County and Schumachers. Feedback from last year included wanting a flowering and fruit trees. A. Elkins stated he had spoken with the local florist and she sells flowering crabs so he would recommend we do not order those. D. Emmerton said the pear from Green County looked good, that an Elderberry is a pretty flowerer and asked was the high bush cranberry really edible. A. Elkins said he had gotten suggestions from the County Forester and he recommended the white oaks as a native species. It was decided to order Hazelnut, Elderberry, Pear, Red Oak, Service Berry and Norway Spruce. There will be pre sales and a round up for price break when they are ordered. S. McCallum will create the flier for commission approval and sending in November.

6. Discussion and consider: TPE Membership \$300, Arbor Day- Jennrich \$300, Kasieta Legal Group \$100, Roy's Market \$8.94, Indigenous Restoration \$2,250. C. Narveson moved to renew the TPE Membership at \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Elkins. Motion Carried. C. Narveson moved to spend \$300 with Paul Jennrich for Arbor Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Emmerton. Motion carried. A. Elkins moved to pay Kasieta Legal Group \$100 for services, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Narveson. Motion carried. C. Narveson moved to approve \$8.94 to Roy's Market, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Emmerton. Motion carried. A. Elkins approved to pay Indigenous Restoration \$2,250, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Emmerton. Motion carried.

7. Discuss and consider: Follow-up from joint meeting, Youth group assistance, Radon Information, Sinking Funds and Holiday Open House. S. McCallum pointed out emails in the

Commissioner's packets regarding the Dog Park follow-up from the joint meeting September 9. H. Pulliam explained the work he had done as a follow-up with Belleville and Monticello.

S. McCallum informed the commission about a contact by a local youth group and their possible involvement in commission projects. H Pulliam requested that S. McCallum contact the leader of the New Glarus Youth Baseball Association and ask him to come to a future meeting to discuss joint efforts.

S. McCallum presented information on the high levels of Radon in the Town of New Glarus that was brought to her attention by a Town resident and inquired if there was any interest to disseminate the information. It was decided to have a short presentation at the Spring Tree workshop on Town Radon awareness. C. Narveson said the Town Board decided not to change the name of the current Town Hall/Town Park sinking fund but start a new one just for the parks, Town Park/Town Trail. He also stated that the board approved the Parks Budget without changes. It was decided to put the June directive from the board about developing the funding mechanism for the Park's Sinking Fund on the next month's agenda.

It was decided to host an annual Holiday Party, but no date was set. Discussion included before a monthly meeting or separate from any town meetings. S. McCallum will talk to Cow & Quince about their location and offerings.

8. Adjourn: The next meeting will be Monday November 16 at 7pm. Agenda to include; flier prep, sinking fund plan, invite youth group and holiday open house plans.

A. Elkins moved to adjourn at 9:32 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by H. Pulliam. Elkins. Motion carried.