

**MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL NEXT SUBSEQUENT MEETING**

**Town of New Glarus  
Joint Parks Commission Minutes  
Thursday, August 19, 2010  
7:30 P.M.**

Attendance: Town Parks Commission members: Russ Whitacre, Chris Narveson, Ellen Caskey, Pete Raskovic, and John Wright, Town Deputy Clerk. Village Parks and Recreation Committee members present: Henry Janisch, Greg Thoemke, Darrel Weber, and Village of New Glarus Administrator Nic Owen

Meeting called to order by H. Janisch at 7:42 PM with a quorum of Town and Village committee members present.

Chair Janisch requested that all cell phones be set to silent operation

1. Proof of proper posting was duly noted by Chair Janisch and Deputy Clerk Wright.
2. Motion to approve of agenda made by G. Thoemke; 2nd by D. Weber. Motion carried.
3. D. Weber moved to accept the minutes of 100217 as presented; 2<sup>nd</sup> G. Thoemke. Motion carried.
4. Discussion of Joint Town Village Cooperative Ventures: Existing and Possible. R. Whitacre enumerated cooperative ventures including members of the Town Parks Commission who volunteer for the Village sponsored Alhornman Triathlon and the Annual Arbor Day tree planting. E. Caskey stated that the Town does a spring clean-up of roadsides to celebrate Earth Day; at this point in time the Town does this independently, but conceivably could be tied to a community-wide event. R. Whitacre stated that the Town is looking to participate in additional activities with the Village.

Village Administrator N. Owen suggested joint participation in the proposed ice rink at Glarner Park. The proposed rink would be located on the baseball field to take advantage of the central location, lighting, and ease of removal at the end of the skating season. Several options were considered by the Village Parks and Recreation Committee. Henry Janisch stated that the Village Parks Committee will most likely recommend the most economical method of laying a 60' x 80' liner on the existing infield of the baseball diamond, surrounded by a sand perimeter. The New Glarus Fire Department would cover the liner with water and the Village would assume the liability for skaters. The approximate cost of materials would be \$384. It was noted that New Glarus Vision Youth Committee would be willing to make a contribution towards the materials when the rink is approved by the Village Board. E. Caskey asked if a new liner will be required each year; Chair Janisch thought if stored properly it could be reused.

Chair Janisch noted another Village Parks and Recreation Committee project will be the installation of a memorial at Veteran's Park. When asked about Hoesly Pond, Janisch replied that the restoration project will be handled by the FFA alumnae. The FFA alumnae will dredge the sediment to an approximate depth of 14-15', rip rap the banks, reseed or re-sod the property, and use the resource as a fish hatchery. The group then discussed how the Town and Village might work cooperatively to provide evening activities for local youth. E. Caskey noted that Kent Anderson had organized

a group of young adults and identified a location for a skate park near the Whistle Stop that ultimately did not materialize. G. Thoemke noted that location is crucial as skate parks can be noisy.

P. Raskovic shared information about a cooperative venture between the Township of Palmer and the Township of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The Charles Chrin Community Center provides activities for youth in the area and was built and is regulated jointly. There was brief discussion regarding repurposing the Village Hall if the New Glarus Public Library builds a facility in a new location. C. Narveson noted that having a plan in place can attract those who are willing to subsidize worthwhile projects. P. Raskovic relayed a personal experience story to illustrate Narveson's point.

Raskovic stated that he would like to build an apprenticeship program somewhere in Green County. Diane Hendricks of American Builders and Contractors Supply has given a commitment to build such a program in Beloit as a charter school. Raskovic stated that he favors the German model of master teachers for trades with years of experience over the American system whereby those who have taken a few courses can in turn teach. Raskovic reported that he has also approached the New Glarus School District Superintendent Dr. Conzemius with some suggestions for apprenticeship programs to benefit local youth. Raskovic stated that many innovative projects can be achieved with a minimal impact on the taxpayers.

5. Discussion of Backtown Development. Chair Janisch reported that the Village sent invitations to developers some of which attended a meeting to present their propositions for development. When asked how imminent plans by Francois Oil to develop their property are, Nic Owen stated that they are currently pursuing other projects. When asked about the nature of development in this area, H. Janisch stated that Backtown is conceived as a commercial project. It was noted that the stockyard was purchased by Francois Oil as well.
6. Discussion of Riverwalk and Trails. G. Thoemke thought something that can complement downtown without competing with it is possible; however, Backtown needs an anchor to succeed, in his opinion. There was brief discussion of the location and the types of trails allowed by natural waterways.
7. Discussion of Town Parks Plan and Village Comprehensive Parks Plan. N. Owen explained that the Village Comprehensive Plan has been updated and resubmitted to the State for approval in order to receive a Letter of Eligibility in return. Currently there is no reference to resources in the Town or possible joint goals shared by the two communities. Town of New Glarus Deputy Clerk Wright noted that the criteria used to award grants utilize a grading system and that reference to other documents adopted by Resolution or Ordinance by a municipality should be referenced if they are relevant; the redundancy shows the consistency of the mission of the community. Likewise, Wright continued, a reference to each other's Parks Plan containing common or possibly joint goals will increase the score on grant applications for both communities.
8. Update on Town's Application for Land Purchase along the Little Sugar River. R. Whitacre gave a brief history regarding the sale of the property and the desire for the Commission to secure an easement from the current landowner.
9. Public Comments. There were no public comments.
10. The next meeting was scheduled for 7:00 PM on Thursday, November 4, 2010 at the Town of New Glarus Office. Agenda items will include: Discuss Concept of

Community Center; Update on Ice Skating Rink at Glarner Park; Review Skate Park Plan with Its Author Kent Anderson.

11. Motion to adjourn: E. Caskey made a motion to adjourn; 2nd R. Whitacre seconded at 8:55 PM. Motion carried.

Revised 101014

**Town of New Glarus  
Joint Parks Commission Minutes  
Wednesday, February 17, 2010  
7:30 P.M.**

Attendance: Town Parks Commission members: Russ Whitacre, Chris Narveson, Ellen Caskey (7:40), Chuck Sasso, Pete Shaffer, Pete Raskovic (departed 8:27), and John Wright, Town Deputy Clerk. Village Parks and Recreation Committee members: Roger Truttman

Also in Attendance: Village of New Glarus Administrator Nic Owen and Town of New Glarus Chair Keith Seward

Meeting called to order by C. Sasso at 7:37 PM with a quorum of Town committee members present.

12. Proof of proper posting was duly noted by Chair Sasso and Deputy Clerk Wright.
13. Motion to approve of agenda made by Roger Truttman, 2nd by C. Sasso. Motion carried.
14. Motion to open the topic to discussion to approve minutes of 1/18/07 by C. Narveson; 2nd by C. Sasso. After brief review of the minutes the motion to approve the Joint Park minutes for 1/18/07 carried.
15. Current Town Goals
  - a. C. Sasso briefly reviewed the Parks ongoing activities including the annual roadside cleanup, the participation in the annual Arbor Day tree planting, and as volunteers for the Alphonman Triathlon. C. Sasso noted that he personally enjoyed participating in the Arbor Day planting activities and noted that the Town Parks Commission has donated \$300 each year toward the purchase of trees. N. Owen stated that the Arbor Day tree planting is scheduled for April 30, 2010. He reported that several larger trees will be planted this year including along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and a tree will be replaced at the Village Park. This event runs from 7:30 in the morning until around 2:00 with a break at noon; food and drink will be available for volunteers.
  - b. Parks members participated as volunteers at the Alphonman Triathlon at the Shooting Barn Park location and have solicited help from other Town residents; this year the event is scheduled August 8, 2010. R. Whitacre stated that the event was well planned and he enjoyed his participation as a result of that organization.
  - c. Chair Sasso reported that the Town Parks members advertise roadside cleanup on an annual basis. The Commission promotes neighborhood efforts, encourages reporting the total bags collected of trash and recycling, and ordinarily identifies one or two roads for a one-day event with adolescents and adult volunteers. This year more focus will be put upon the cleanup of the Bluebird Ridge Conservancy within the Windmill Ridge Subdivision. In addition to clearing trash, Sasso noted there is work to do removing brush prior to a controlled burn and reseeding. Chair Sasso gave a brief report for the benefit of

the Village representatives in attendance regarding the prairie restoration and signage projects within the Conservancy.

16. Chair Sasso asked about the Village's plans regarding a River Walk and the development of Backtown. N. Owen stated that the two plans are related. The Riverwalk is a concept plan that would extend a trail from Backtown by the County Highway garage to downtown where it will connect to the existing trail that follows Highway 69 south to the New Glarus Woods State Park. Part of the long term goal is to also connect to the Swiss Shooting Barn on County Road O. Owen stated that a letter had recently been sent to developers to seek their interest in the redevelopment of Backtown; he expects to hear back within the next two months. C. Sasso asked how imminent development is for this project; Mr. Owen was uncertain given the current state of the economy but noted that contractors and developers may be interested in this project during this slower period.

C. Sasso introduced a Town concept of a trail along County Road O that depends upon easements, land donations, grants, or purchases by the Town. He stated that ideally the Town and the Village should develop their plans together as each project complements the other. C. Narveson asked what type of surface was planned for the Riverwalk. N. Owen replied that the original plan was to use gravel although paving might be considered as well if and when the project begins. K. Seward noted that the Parks Commission has discussed long-term plans to connect Windmill Ridge, Old Madison Road, and County O to Village sidewalks and the proposed Riverwalk. Seward suggested that this would have to be approached jointly so that the results aren't isolated projects, but one coherent design instead. Completion of the project could enrich life for current residents, could potentially draw new residents, and encourage additional tourism to the New Glarus area as well.

C. Sasso spoke of the Swiss tradition of red benches along walking trails and proposed their use to tie the two plans together thematically as well as physically. R. Truttmann reported that his wife was surprised by the lack of resting points along our existing trails. R. Whitacre also thought signs indicating the distance to the next feature such as a park, town, or restaurant could be incorporated as well. C. Sasso asked if Deputy Clerk Wright or R. Whitacre would like to ask any questions or make any observations for the benefit of the Village representatives present regarding their research into DNR funding. R. Whitacre stated that the two had researched River Protection and Stewardship Grants for land acquisition and trail development.

Wright stated his opinion that even small efforts such as the Parks Commission attempt to purchase a small piece of property along County Road O and the Village's efforts to improve streambanks along the Little Sugar River are sending a positive message to the State's Department of Natural Resources regarding our local interest to act as good stewards of the land. Even these isolated efforts, Wright continued, can be key elements in successfully realizing medium and long-term goals with funding from a variety of sources independent of taxation including: Trouts Unlimited, Streambank Preservation Grant, Stewardship Grants, fundraising, private and corporate donations, etc. Wright noted that the scoring of grant applications is influenced by cooperation between volunteer organizations and municipalities as well as the population served including ties to the local schools' curricula.

K. Seward noted that Old Madison Road had been widened by the Town recently for pedestrian traffic, but was not wide enough for a bike path. K. Seward asked for this group to consider sitting down and working on a cooperative concept plan. N. Owen briefly reported on the Backtown Plan created by a UW Madison Landscape Architecture student and thought the School could be consulted for Town's ideas as well. E. Caskey suggested that a name like Alpine Heritage Trail could build local

interest and support. She wondered how the trail system is funded in Switzerland and whether that might have relevance here. P. Raskovic agreed that the name of a project itself could help build local support from individuals and businesses. Raskovic suggested that sections of the proposed trail could be underwritten by interested individuals, organizations, and businesses. Deputy Clerk Wright briefly reviewed advice given by Dana Quam White a DNR Parks representative when she attended a Town Parks meeting in October of 2009. Quam White suggested holding meetings for the purpose of soliciting local input for proposed projects with an eye towards answering questions and allaying fears.

17. Keith Seward reported that the Town has been engaged in a Feasibility Study for the Old Town Hall that could potentially require the relocation of the Town Garage. The Town Board will present the results of the study at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2010. Seward noted that there has been some input from the Village and Library Board and that their concerns will be incorporated into the study. If the electorate decides at the Annual Meeting to adopt one of the options in the study, then the Town will need to determine how the Old Town Hall will be used. One of the possibilities detailed in the study is the possible use of the property surrounding the Old Town Hall and Town Garage for a new joint public library that contains details regarding how it would fit the site. Another option would be to build a new Town Office adjacent to the Old Town Hall. Seward noted that if the library option was pursued by the electorate, its location would serve as a nice complement to the Backtown concept plan which is across Railroad Street, although parking would be somewhat restricted. Seward briefly explained the purpose of Annual Town Meetings which are a statutorily required. It was noted that the 2011 Parks Plan is also included on that agenda as a topic of discussion.

Roger Truttmann reported that the stockyard group on Railroad Street has been dissolved by its members and the property will be available for purchase soon. There was brief discussion regarding whether Francois Oil was still considering the site for a gas station with direct access to Highway 69. E. Caskey asked what vision the Village Board has for development of the site. N. Owen responded that ideally a mixed use concept for buildings with the ground floor for business and condos upstairs. C. Sasso recalled that the plan submitted by the UW Madison Landscape Architecture student to the Village included a plaza and amphitheater. C. Narveson expressed his personal opinion that if the New Glarus Lumber site was to ever become available that it might be a better site for the Public Library than that proposed in the Feasibility Study discussed above.

18. N. Owen stated that he had worked with the New Glarus School District on a planning grant application, but their proposal was not funded by the Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) who administers the Safe Routes to School Grant. Construction grants are also available from the D.O.T. once a plan has been determined. R. Whitacre asked where the route proposed by the Village is located. Owen replied that at the time of the grant submission the Village was widening and resurfacing 2<sup>nd</sup> Street so the adjacent sidewalks were the proposed route. C. Narveson thought this could be useful for those areas of the Town and Village within the effective radius that are currently without sidewalks or walking paths. N. Owen stated he recently forwarded information to Laura Eicher at New Glarus School district who is in charge of transportation but has not heard back from her yet. The deadline for the grant is normally in the March of each year, but this year's deadline has been delayed according to information on the D.O.T. website. N. Owen noted that for the planning phase a regional planner or a contracted planner can be used.
19. N. Owen stated that there had been discussion in the past of Town participation in the funding of Village Parks operations in exchange for equalization of user fees for Town

residents. C. Sasso stated that although he was not on the Town Parks Commission at the time, he thought that joint funding discussions probably would likely have continued had the Town been given a voice during discussion of Village projects including the poolhouse replacement. Sasso continued by stating that the Parks Commission would need to authorize financial commitments to the Village through the Town Board; however, that request would be unlikely unless the Town Parks Commission was a party to the discussions of joint projects during the planning phase. N. Owen noted that an agreed upon item of mutual interest defined by the Joint Town/Village Negotiations Committee is for the two parks committees to work cooperatively if that is something to which both can agree. K. Seward recommended that the joint meetings include mutually developed concepts with a list of joint benefits for both municipalities that could then be shared with members of the Joint Negotiations Committee.

K. Seward asked the Village representatives in attendance their level of interest in expanding recreational opportunities beyond the Village in a joint manner. R. Truttmann replied that there has been no recent discussion of that possibility. Truttmann did report that money set aside for playground equipment for Neuchatel will be used to install equipment at the Valle Tell Soccer field off Elmer Road instead. No decision has been made at this date whether volunteers from the community can assist in the installation. Mr. Truttmann further reported that the local FFA will move forward with the dredging of Hoesly Pond now that they have gotten approval from the Department of Natural Resources. Green County Highway will need to be contacted regarding drainage on the site which is at the intersection of Highway 69 and County Road W. Access to the pond will be from Hoesly Drive.

R. Whitacre asked about the long-term plan for Hoesly Pond. Truttmann replied the FFA would like to build a shed which they have agreed to maintain, but they want the Village to own it. N. Owen stated that the School District is interested in using the site for an aquaculture program; they would stock the pond with the fish they already raise at the school. Truttmann briefly described a use proposed by Brad Hoesly for field and water trials for bird dogs involving approximately 500 animals. K. Seward asked how receptive the Village Parks and Recreation Committee would be to work cooperatively with the Town Parks Commission on the Riverwalk. Truttmann thought they would be interested. K. Seward noted that any land purchased with Town money must have a purpose; it cannot be speculative. C. Sasso thought the Riverwalk concept was of the highest importance to explore further, especially if the Town is successful in purchasing property along County Road O. P. Shaffer suggested a site visit along the path of the proposed Riverwalk when the weather warms up; without objection.

20. Public comments. K. Seward asked who was the Chair of the Village Parks and Recreation Committee; R. Truttmann responded by introducing himself as Chair and stating that Henry Jannisch and Darrel Weber are the two members who were absent this evening. C. Sasso apologized for not introducing the Commission members; he had the members introduce themselves to the representatives from the Village. K. Seward would prefer that both Chairs compare notes on a regular basis and submit feedback to their respective boards, which can then be forwarded to the Joint Negotiations Committee.
21. The next meeting was scheduled for 7:30 PM on Thursday, August 19, 2010 at the Village Hall Board Room. Agenda items will include: Discuss concepts of Riverwalk plan; Update on Town's Application for Land Purchase along the Little Sugar River.
22. Motion to adjourn: R. Whitacre made a motion to adjourn and P. Shaffer seconded at 8:58 PM. Motion carried.

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