

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL NEXT SUBSEQUENT MEETING

VILLAGE OF NEW GLARUS/TOWN OF NEW GLARUS
JOINT PARKS COMMITTEE

October 5, 2011

Chairman Greg Thoenke called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Town members present: Russ Whitacre, Keith Seward, Pete Raskovic (6:48) and Chris Narveson (7:00). Village members present: Mark Janowiak and Greg Thoenke. Also Present: Mary Ellen Kelly, Sue Leverich, Village President Jim Salter and Village of New Glarus Administrator Nicholas Owen.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mark Janowiak to approve the agenda, second by Keith Seward. Motion carried

Approval of Minutes of the 7/14/11 Meeting: Motion by Mark Janowiak to approve the minutes of 7/14/11, second by Russ Whitacre. Motion carried.

Continue Discussion of a Joint Community Center: Consensus of the committee was to continue research on options for a community center.

Continue Discussion of a Joint Dog Park: Russ Whitacre reported that approximately 20 people attended a community meeting held to discuss a potential dog park. Responses on why people are interested in a dog park included: exercise, interaction with other pet owners, having a park closer to home, paying the fees locally rather than to Dane County. The attendees indicated features they are looking for in a dog park include; parking, shade, benches, open space, water feature/access to drinking water for pets. The attendees indicated they understood there would like be an annual fee/user fee as well as the need to assist with volunteer maintenance of the park. Whitacre indicated that a facebook page (New Glarus Area Dog Park) has been started to gather more interest/input on the park.

Mark Janowiak and Russ Whitacre met to review potential properties for the dog park. One potential area reviewed was the Tell Shooting Barn. Janowiak has had preliminary discussions with a few members of the Tell Guild and there is some interest. Janowiak will be preparing a summary of the dog park for discussion by the full Tell Guild at their next meeting.

The committee discussed the possible use of Hoesly Pond Park. Sue Leverich indicated that the FFA alumni have discussed the possibility of allowing dogs at the park in some manner and they will have further discussion at their next meeting.

The committee discussed if there are any statutory regulations for dog parks. Russ Whitacre indicated he has not found any set standards, but all do have general rules and fees for use of the parks. Others have separate areas for small and large dogs and agility courses. Mark Janowiak added that he has spoken with a representative of the Dane County dog park in Verona and he would be willing to meet with the group and answer any questions.

The committee discussed what type of plan would be needed for the layout of the park. Pete Raskovic indicated he has contacts with a vocational college that has a Landscape Technology program where students would get credit for creating a plan for a project similar to this for no cost.

Consensus of the committee was to continue research on the park.

2011 Park and Recreation Reports: Administrator Owen provided a brief summary of the parks and recreation reports for 2011. The committee briefly discussed participation and use numbers.

Updates

Hoesly Pond: Administrator Owen informed the dredging work has been completed and the pond is filling. The FFA Alumni are putting together a potential project list to use to seek funding for the additional improvements desired at the park. Sue Leverich added that the FFA alumni will be meeting Sunday for further discussion the on pond/park.

Village Park Ice Skating Rink: Administrator Owen reported that the equipment should be usable again this year and staff will work on identifying a different location for this year, likely in Village Park.

Public Comments: Sue Leverich asked if playground equipment is inspected annually? Administrator Owen indicated there is no formal inspection; problems are addressed as they come up. He will look into annual inspections.

Leverich asked if there is a planned face lift for candy cane park due to the faded equipment. Administrator Owen indicated there is not.

Leverich asked if the Chalet of the Golden Fleece is a joint parks issue? Administrator Owen indicated it is a Village Park issue.

Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda Items: Next meeting will be January 4th at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. Agenda items to include: Continue Discussion of a Joint Community Center, Continue Discussion of a Joint Dog Park and Updates on Hoesly Pond, Village Park Ice Skating Rink.

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

Town of New Glarus Joint Parks Commission Minutes

Thursday, July 14, 2011

7:00 P.M.

Attendance: Town Parks Commission members: Russ Whitacre, Chris Narveson, Ellen Caskey, Keith Seward and Town Clerk-Treasurer Pattie Salter. Village Parks and Recreation Committee members present: Henry Janisch, Greg Thoemke, and Village of New Glarus Administrator Nic Owen.

Absent: Town member Pete Raskovic and Village member Darrel Weber

Also attending: Mark Janowiak (departed 8:26 PM)

Meeting called to order by R. Whitacre at 7:30 PM with a quorum of Town and Village committee members present.

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

1. Proof of proper posting was duly noted by Chair Whitacre and Clerk-Treasurer Salter.
2. Motion to approve the agenda made by K. Seward; 2nd by G. Thoenke. Motion carried.
3. H. Janisch moved to accept the minutes of 101104 as presented; 2nd G. Thoenke. Motion carried.
4. Continue Discussion of Concept of Joint Community Center. Now that the New Glarus Public Library has closed on the property at the intersection of STH 39 and Durst Road, the current space housing the Library in the Village Hall will be available after they move to the new site. N. Owen stated the Library Board has many steps to complete before the building process can begin; H. Janisch felt that was time needed to decide what should be included in a community center and to raise funds to meet those goals. G. Thoenke expressed concern about raising funds for a community center simultaneous to doing the same for a new library. H. Janisch did not feel that this would be a problem because the community center would be looking for items not capital. H. Janisch wondered if donations could be accepted in a manner that they would qualify as a tax donation for the donor.

Chair Whitacre thought the possibility exists that some of the furnishings and equipment from the existing library may be available if it was decided by the Library Board to deaccess some items during the move to the new facility. E. Caskey stated the School District may also be willing to donate items it routinely replaces. Without objection, a wish list will be put together of resources, such as sofas, television, games, etc. Administrator Owen suggested bringing the idea to the Village Board to discuss this proposed use of the space and whether it could be available for this purpose rent free. G. Thoenke figured the facility would not be available for at least three years. There was brief discussion as to whether the focus would be solely on youth or whether seniors could also utilize the space. Administrator Owen believed that the New Glarus Home offers some opportunities for non-resident seniors in the area.

R. Whitacre noted that during the school year most area youth would be at school, so he reasoned the space could be available for a demographic during those times. Whitacre thought broadening the appeal would also increase local support. Administrator Owen noted that during the summer season the Village Parks and Recreation Department offers activities; they may not be supportive of sedentary activities that attract participants away from their target audience. H. Janisch thought it would not be a problem as he believes they are two separate target audiences. C. Narveson questioned who would staff the facility; Janisch replied that volunteers could. G. Thoenke thought that hours of operation on weekdays during the school year could be 4 to 9 PM; he thought the restricted hours would reduce the chances for parents considering the facility as a free daycare center. Clerk-Treasurer Salter suggested drafting a Mission Statement and E. Caskey proposed defining the structure. R. Whitacre agreed to contact Atwood Community Center in Madison, WI or another facility and will bring those results to the next meeting. H. Janisch suggested consulting with Pete Raskovic about the community center he was familiar with in Pennsylvania.

5. Village Administrator Nic Owen gave a brief report about the ice skating rink funded jointly by the Town and Village that was located near in Glarner Park near the fire station. Owen reported that shortly after the rink was set up the weather warmed and the ice melted; the rink was refilled and received some use, but the Village did not track that information. Children playing on the liner caused some damage that can probably be repaired with tape. Owen stated that a new location will be explored as removal of the wet liner in spring from the softball fields was problematic. H. Janisch suggested relocating the rink atop the basketball court at the Village Park; Owen disagreed because the courts are used immediately in spring and advocated for a different location within the Village Park. The Village staff will decide where the rink will go and when it will open. E. Caskey volunteered to put a notice in the New Glarus Schools Friday Folders when the rink is reinstalled.

6. Discussion of Joint Dog Park. R. Whitacre reported that John Wright suggested land that is currently owned by the Monroe Clinic. The property is 4.0 acres in size and located on STH 69 north of Old Madison Road; Spring Valley Creek runs through the property. E. Caskey thought the Monroe Clinic

Hospital may be interested in a park with a walking path and exercise stations. Village of New Glarus resident Mark Janowiak stated in addition to land and a fence, a dog park would require parking, a waste policy, and liability insurance. Janowiak stated other local dog parks charge \$20 to \$25 per year; dogs can be registered on an annual or daily basis. Compliance is handled through random spot checks. In response to a question from K. Seward, Janowiak was uncertain whether the collected fees cover all expenses or if a portion must be subsidized. E. Caskey thought for-hire services exist for the collection of bagged waste from these types of parks.

Mr. Janowiak stated that there is a professional demographic that a dog park attracts. N. Owen suggested finding partners to help fund the project such as Dog Face. Mr. Janowiak stated that he estimated sheep fencing would cost approximately \$4,000 to enclose the perimeter of the property. N. Owen stated the property opposite the Don Thompson farm on CTH and 2nd Street had been for sale, but thought the asking price might be prohibitive for this purpose. Mr. Janowiak stated the land adjacent to the Shooting Barn on CTH O would be a good site, but the Wilhelm Tell Guild would have to agree and relocate Volksfest elsewhere. E. Caskey asked about the abandoned Village Dump on STH 39 and Klitzke Road; N. Owen stated the Village uses the site for composting. Mr. Janowiak noted that Dau Songpanya had offered to donate a portion of land for a dog park at one time, although the location would be relatively remote.

G. Thoemke thought a location nearer the Village could have a positive impact upon usage, shopping, and corporate and private sponsorship. Mr. Janowiak offered to make some calls to inquire into potential locations. K. Seward recommended that this discussion be brought before the Town and Village Boards for their input. E. Caskey suggested the land between the Wastewater Treatment Facility and Dr. Kruse's veterinary clinic as a possibility to consider. C. Narveson agreed to talk with Randy Kruse. Without objection, Mr. Janowiak will work with R. Whitacre to put an outline together to present to the Town and Village Boards.

7. R. Whitacre gave a report on skateboard parks in the area. R. Whitacre stated he had spoken with the Village of Mt. Horeb Parks and Forestry Department Director (Jeff Gorman) and City of Middleton Recreation Director Larry Witt about their facilities. Both municipalities created their own concrete structures; Larry Witt informed Whitacre there are concrete components that can be purchased. The Mt. Horeb facility was built about 10 years ago and use has decreased. Mr. Witt noted that some limited issues are associated with the skate park; bigger kids dominate its use and there are limited issues with graffiti and vandalism with few complaints from neighbors. Administrator Owen stated that liability for a municipality for this type of recreation is limited and creates few problems. Owen reported that the Village of Mt. Horeb monitors their skate park with a security camera. R. Whitacre reported that the skate park in Mt. Horeb opened in 2008; the park is 9,000 ft² with a 2,000 ft² bowl. The Village Parks and Forestry Director reported that usage of the facility is steady and they have had few negative issues associated with it; hours are until 8 PM or dusk, whichever occurs first. G. Thoemke's impression is that skateboarding interest is down. After a brief discussion the committee felt that interest wasn't great enough at this time; efforts would be better spent on a dog park.

8. Administrator Owen gave a brief update on Hoesly Pond. The FFA Alumni members have been removing sediment from the pond this summer, which will be allowed to dry prior to hauling to the Village quarry. Eventually the pond will be stocked with fish from the High School aquaculture program.

9. Updates

- a. The Town and Village both participated in the annual Arbor Day tree planting that was coordinated by Village Arborist Paul Jennrich.
- b. Administrator Owen stated the Alphonman Triathlon will be held on August 7, 2011, starting at 7:30 AM. Volunteers are needed to help with the day's activities (please see attached). Owen reported there were over 200 participants last year and estimated 225 will participate this year.

10. Public Comments.

11. The next meeting was scheduled for 6:30 PM on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at the Village Hall Boardroom. Agenda items will include: Continue Discussion of a Joint Community Center; Continue Discussion of a Joint Dog Park; Updates: Hoesly Pond and Village Park Ice Skating Rink.

12. Motion to adjourn: E. Caskey made a motion to adjourn; 2nd H. Janisch at 8:45 PM. Motion carried.

Revised 110803

VILLAGE OF NEW GLARUS/TOWN OF NEW GLARUS
JOINT PARKS COMMITTEE

March 22, 2011

No meeting was held due to lack of quorum.

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

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