

Town of Rib Mountain
Park Commission
Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Call to order:

George Snyder called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll was taken. Members present: Shelly Hertz, Duane Zeichert, Bill Bursaw, Liesle Markovitch, George Snyder, Bert Nitzke and Scott Miles. Scott Schatschneider, Streets and Parks Superintendent, was also present.

Approval of Minutes:

Bill B. made a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting with several edifications: “5)” in the March minutes should read “Flag Pole Discussion” and “Summer Program” should replace “Flag Pole Discussion”. Bert also added an amendment to the motion changing “7 p.m.” to “5 p.m.” in the first line of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Bert N. The motion passed.

Streets and Parks Superintendent’s Report:

- a. A revised timeline of goals and projects was presented by Scott S. He noted that the Park signage should be installed this month and the Doepke dumpster project is proceeding as planned. There was an issue with the original cost estimate for blocks that would match the dugouts. Scott S. is checking with several sources to see if they can be acquired at a more reasonable cost.
- b. Savings from the playground equipment may help defer the additional costs for the dumpster construction. A monorail will be installed instead of the zip line and the border did not need to be disrupted, which helped save costs.
- c. Shelley H. asked if anything could be done about the cracks in Liberty Park’s tennis courts. A crack reappeared and impairs play on one court. Scott will check with the company but since the project was done two years ago, he was not sure they would do anything.
- d. Duane Z. asked about the locks at Doepke Shelter. Scott S. said they are close to being installed.

Flag Pole Donation:

The Town was approached by a local group willing to donate \$1500 toward a flag pole at Doepke Park honoring LeRoy Jonas' years of service as Town Chairperson. Scott S. had costs for the project and stated that there may be another group that would donate the additional \$1,000 necessary to complete the project. (Estimated for the pole, lighting, flags and concrete slab were about \$2,500.)

Shelley H. raised several questions about this plan. She questioned if it was necessary to have a lighted flag pole at the park, and the long term costs for the Town? Flag poles were not part of the Town's brochure on park donations and she did not think it would add to the aesthetics of the park. Bill B. agreed that after spending time to develop the donation brochure, it might set a precedent for any other group to attempt to designate funds for other things that may not add to the value of the park. George S. stated that the brochure also allowed the Park Commission to take other kinds of donations that it deemed worthwhile. He did not think the costs of utilities or flag replacement was significant. Scott M. asked why the group could not be asked to consider other options rather than a flag pole. He also agreed with the other comments about a pole's necessity and the precedent that it may set for future donations. Duane Z. asked about the placement of the pole lighting and was told they would be on the roof of the shelter.

Scott M. asked if LeRoy Jonas had played a role in the development of Doepke Park. Other commission members commented on the project and discussed the idea that a plaque at the Town Hall may be a more appropriate way to recognize Mr. Jonas' service to the Town.

Bill B made a motion to table any action on the flag pole until other alternatives can be considered. Leisle M. seconded the motion. It passed.

School Tennis Program:

George S. reported that the school tennis program would be open to all Town residents, not cost the Town anything and will be run by volunteers. No other issues were raised.

Doepke Park Historical Marker:

The Park Commission was contacted about a plaque recognizing the Doepke family and their ownership of the property that now makes up the park. A proposed write-up was presented and discussion of this project ensued. Park Commission members raised similar questions about this project that were raised about the flag pole proposal – should donations follow the recommendations found in the new park donations brochure? A plaque or tiles might be more appropriate and could be placed at the shelter. Several ideas were discussed. There were also questions raised about the proposed wording of the plaque. Shelley H made a motion to table any action on the plaque and to pursue the idea of placing a plaque inside the shelter. Bill B seconded it. The motion passed.

One suggestion for a historically accurate plaque would read:

“The Doepke family farmed this parcel of land, as well as the acreage directly south of the park, from 1803 until the death of Fred Doepke in 2008. At that time, the land was purchased by the Town and named Doepke Park.”

Wausau Youth Baseball Contract:

Scott S. explained that the contract is still being worked on. He would add the idea of removing the unlit flag from the flag pole after games at the diamond as well as removing cinder blocks and grass clippings from the park.

Budget – Financial Status:

The financial document in our packet was reviewed. Questions were answered by George S. and Scott S.

Open Discussion:

Bert asked about installation of additional lighting at Doepke Park. Scott S. explained that would be done at the same time as the dumpster lighting is completed. Also, lighting on the shelter will be moved to illuminate more of the area and shelter.

Motion to Adjourn:

Shelley H. made the motion to adjourn and Duane Z. seconded it. The motion passed.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 8th at 5 pm.