

Rib Mountain Park Commission

June 14, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes: Motion by to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2016 meeting. Questioned and carried.

Dog Park – Location Approval – Town Board Supervisor Gerry Klein updated the Committee on the Rib Mountain Dog Park status. The Oriole Lane parcel must remain as a retention pond per a previous agreement with the DOT. It is used for overflow from the north and west. Pond overflow drains under Hummingbird Road to the river. There are some cattails in the middle of the site but the rest of the area is pretty level.

The Town would fence off the cattail to reduce blastomycosis exposure. Marathon County legally owns half of this property now. The other half is still owned by the State of Wisconsin. The Town will probably need to buy the county's parcel, but the state's portion will be free. Transferring these parcels would cost about \$2,000 once the legal fees are paid. Marathon County will retain access rights for drainage and culvert work.

Bill Bursaw stated the Town of Rib Mountain is definitely interested in this parcel of land for a dog park. **Motion by Bursaw/Grundemann to pursue the Oriole Lane parcel as the location of choice. Questioned and carried.**

Gerry Klein suggested the Park Commission add a grass walking trail outside the fence and solicit donors to help fund the cost of fencing. Bill Bursaw noted this step will need to be addressed later and priority should be acquiring the property first. It was noted that three property owners would be effected by this proposal. Adding a privacy fence will help persuade the property owners to accept the proposed park stated Supervisor Klein. He also suggested the Town purchase the half acre parcel on Martin Avenue (privately owned) under the power lines which could be an entrance access from the west side. The Town will need to mow the dog park 2 – 3 times per year to keep brush

down and any parking lot developed must be paved per the Town's zoning ordinance. Should the site fall through, Liberty Park could be considered as an alternate site. Markevitch noted that a vacant lot by Menards was investigated as a dog park site, but the wet areas presented a risk for Blastomycosis. The site proposal was dropped. Dog park insurance costs are unknown at this time.

Aggressive Goose -It was noted that the aggressive goose, nesting across from the Fire Station has disappeared without the DNR's intervention. Town Workers removed the fencing and barricades signs last week.

Dick's Sporting Goods Trail – The pedestrian trail expansion by Dick's Sporting Goods is complete. A sidewalk along the south edge of Dick's property connects to the street crossing at the stoplights. Although grading has been improved, some water still collects inside the freeway underpass tunnel. Scott Turner will review the drainage grade on east side of the tunnel entrance. He suggested an asphalt berm (like a door threshold) could be constructed inside the east entrance to route water away.

Scrub Oak – A memorial Scrub Oak tree has been planted with a Town marker plaque along Hummingbird Road, just east of the Doepke Park sidewalk railing. It was paid for by a private donor.

Recent Storms – Rib Mountain experienced very minor damage from the June 5th thunderstorm.

No Knobs on Cabinets – Chairman Conklin stated the Town needs to improve the cabinet door latches at the Doepke Shelter. Presently there are no knobs on the doors.

Chellis Park Toilet – There has been a request to add a portable toilet at Chellis Park. Street Superintendent Turner informed the Commission with an added toilet, the cost is an additional \$6000 for six months of service, which is 10% of the budget. The had provided a portable toilet at the site in the past and was used very little. Jerry stated this is a neighborhood park and there should be no need for a portable toilet. **Motion by**

Grundemann/Bruner to not install a portable toilet at Chellis Park. Questioned and carried.

Rookery Kiosk – Colton will begin construction of the Rookery Park kiosk at the end of July. Currently the Park Commission have no additional Eagle Scout projects planned at the moment.

Domtar Disc Golf Course – Last month the Rothschild Village Board requested we obtain written approval from the DNR before constructing the disc golf course in the Domtar floodplain. Muehlbrauer has contacted Kyle McLaughlin at the Rhinelander DNR office to advise us on any wetland restrictions.

Nature Trail Signage – Money is tight for this project. According to Bill, each sign would cost about \$500 (to meet the National park signage standards). The Town will be required to provide the mounting posts and installation of each sign. The Doepke Family may be interested in donating funds for signage. They offered to pay for benches in the past. To gain community funding, the Town could emphasize the educational approach for each sign. **Motion by Grundemann/Bursaw to add two signs for this year; Roads to Wetlands and Hemlock Habitat, if money is still available, a third sign; Sandhill Crane could be installed at Rookery View Park. Questioned and carried.** It was noted to have the signs on file for future use.

Kayak Launch – Town Board members suggested the Park Commission use the existing boat launch at Gullivar's for the kayak site. This area is too weedy and the cement launch is too abrasive on the kayaks. The Commission prefers to launch from Rookery Park instead where the water is cleaner and fewer rocks that could cause damage to the kayaks. Supervisor Klein also prefers Rookery Park's sandy launch area and he will discuss this matter further with Town Board members.

Doepke Park Photos on Website – Chad has downloaded numerous photos to the Rib Mountain website, but he could use additional photos. He asked members if they could provide him with additional pictures. Scott Turner's stated his summer intern may be

able to sketch a layout of the Doepke shelter. This future would be able to provide renters the layout of the facilities.

Summer Program Subsidy – A Town resident asked the Park Commission to subsidize the current \$75.00 summer recreation fee for their child. It was mentioned the Town is already paying out \$10,000 annually for this program. The Wausau Noon Optimist agreed to pay the child's registration fee.

Emerald Ash Borer Problem – It costs about \$500 to treat an ash tree and even more to cut one down and replace the infected tree. The number of ash trees with the Township are unknown at this time. The Public Works Department is responsible for addressing the Emerald Ash Borer infestations, not the Rib Mountain Park Department. Property owners are responsible for their own trees. In the 1970's and 80's ash trees were planted in many cities to replace trees lost to Dutch Elm disease. An article on Emerald Ash Borer will be published in the upcoming Town Beat.

Adjournment –

Submitted by
Jerry Muehlbrauer