

**Town of Rib Mountain  
Park Commission  
July 10, 2013**

- I. **Call to Order** – Chairperson George Snyder called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.
- II. **Roll Call** - Bill Bursaw, Chad Grundeman, Mai Herr, Liesle Markovitch, Scott Miles and George Snyder were present. Duane Zeichert was excused. Scott Turner, Streets and Parks Supt. was also present.
- III. **Approval of Minutes from June 11, 2013 meeting** – A motion was made by Chad G and seconded by Liesle M to accept the minutes. The motion passed.
- IV. **Streets and Parks Report**
  - A. Doepke Park – Scott T met with AE Comm (engineer) to explore options for the large areas of wetlands in the trail route. It will be difficult to stay within budget to construct a walkway through these areas because of the cost of boardwalk construction (@\$75/ft). Scott T will contact the DNR to see if Stewardship grant can be used for another project (possibly Rookery Park). Any alternative routes would come to close to homes to the north.
  - B. 51/29 Trail Construction - The trail construction was slated to start on July 7<sup>th</sup>, but has been pushed back to July 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> to assure that supplies will be on site. Construction of this trail should be completed by mid to late Sept.
  - C. Other – The soda machine at Doepke Park is installed and Scott T will have a report on its installation costs (electrician, outlets) at our next meeting.
  - D. Scott T will also check on the lighting at Rib Mountain Elementary tennis courts. A resident reported that the lights are not working.
- V. **Doepke Reservation Policy Changes** – Scott T reported that the change to a rolling reservation policy was in the recent Town Beat. No feedback has been received as the policy has yet to go in effect. Scott T will ask office staff to contact people who have made yearly reservations so that they are aware of the change in policy. He will also check to see if the reservation policy change is on the town website.
- VI. **Major Events Policy** – The Immanuel Baptist Church event went well. Scott T and staff helped select safe areas for the tent and reported that the area was clean after the event ended. (Larger events will need port-a-johns to accommodate

larger numbers. He will establish a guide for those wishing to schedule larger events at the park.)

- VII. **Park Bench Update** – George S reported that a resident wishing to place a memorial bench at Rookery Park did not like the choice of bench the Park Commission selected for all new benches. George explained to the resident that the type bench they wanted was no longer made by the same company and now was much more expensive. (The current cost of a bench and installation is \$1000.) The resident asked if they could install the bench themselves to save on costs but Scott T told them his staff was the only ones able to install the bench. The Commission agreed with this decision.
  
- VIII. **Park & Recreation Comprehensive Plan** – Gaylene has been in contact with the Regional Planning Commission and had a price of \$5000 for them to help us create a plan. The Town’s Finance and Personnel Committee approved this funding. Over three meetings, they will help us create a plan over the next 6 – 12 months. Town residents will be surveyed and they will work with us to assure that all necessary elements are included so the Town will be eligible for future Stewardship grants. (Bill B noted that the old plan was not accurate when it came to the Rib Mountain State Park. He will note the errors and omissions so they can be corrected.)
  
- IX. **Recent Park Articles** – George S included an article from a recent WI e-Bird publication that mentioned the view of Lake Wausau wildlife that is available from Rookery Park. A Wausau Daily Herald article rated Doepke Park as one of the “five star” parks in our area.
  
- X. **Summer Program Update** – George S talked with Becky (summer program coordinator) and she reported that registration is up by about ten children. Afternoon numbers are higher than morning attendance which has been the trend. Field trips have gone very well. The additional staff person has been most helpful in managing the larger numbers. There will be no family picnic this weekend. One issue involved parents that tried to enroll their older children into the summer program. The change this year limited the age/grade to make it safer for younger children. The wide age range made it difficult to organize group activities.
  
- XI. **Park Commission Opening** – With the retirement/resignation of Chairperson George S, an opening exists on the Park Commission. Several people have asked about the position but there are no applicants at this time.
  
- XII. **Election of Park Commission Chairperson** – The Commission discussed the position but no person was willing to run for this office. At the request of George S, Scott M will serve as Chairperson for the August meeting with the election of a new chairperson being on the agenda.

XIII. **Financial Report** – Scott T updated us on the finances at this point in the year. There is approximately \$4000 available for special projects.

XIV. **Open Discussion** – Scott T mentioned that the Little League Baseball Tournament is scheduled for the next two weekends at Doepke Park.

George S was thanked for his 14 years of service to the Town as Park Commissioner. Members mentioned his organization, passion and vision for parks in the town. George passed out some reflections on what Commissioners should keep in mind as they look to the future of the town. One noteworthy quote : “what you do for yourself dies with you, what you do for others lives forever!” With the development of Doepke Park from a farm to a “five star” park is just one of the things George helped make happen during his tenure. THANK YOU GEORGE from all of us!!!

XV. **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn was made by Bill B and seconded by Mai H. The motion passed.