

AGENDA

County Of Eau Claire
Committee On Parks & Forest
Tuesday, January 24, 2017 – 5:00 p.m.
Ag & Resource Center
227 1st St West, Altoona WI 54720

Members note: Please call the committee chair or office if you will not be attending the meeting.

1. Confirmation of meeting notice
2. Approval of minutes from January 10, 2017 Meeting – Discussion/action
3. Public Input
4. Lake Altoona Master Plan – Discussion/action
5. Ski Striders Lighting Project at Tower Ridge – Discussion/action
6. Expo/Curling Club Lease Extension - Discussion
7. Stewardship Committee report – Discussion/action
8. Correspondence
9. Staff and committee reports
10. Advisory Committee Input/Assignments
11. Future and pending items – February 15, 2017 6:00 p.m. - Public Hearing on Lowes Creek Park Reclamation of Clay Pit Sites - Ag Center, 2nd Floor

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**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
COMMITTEE ON PARKS & FOREST**

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 5:00 p.m.
Ag & Resource Center, Altoona WI 54720

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Gibson, Patrick LaVelle, Tami Schraufnagel, Kevin Stelljes and Bruce Willett

OTHERS PRESENT: Brooke Ludwig, WDNR Forester; Buzz Sorge, WDNR Fisheries; Jed Kaurich, Augusta DNR; Jereme Rauckman and Dustin Marsh, Chippewa Off-Road Bike Association (CORBA); Stuart Schaefer and Jamie Radabaugh, Commonweal Development; Steve Haas, Haas Sons Inc; Karen Kraus, Special Olympics; Mike Buck, Mega Co-op; Marlo Orth, Lake Eau Claire Association representative; Brian Sandy, Eau Claire Press and Winter Fest Organizer; Jerry Shea, Market & Johnson; Sue McDonald and Glory Adams, Citizens.

STAFF PRESENT: Jody Gindt, Jamie Kuhl, Josh Pedersen and Bobbi Barone

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patrick LaVelle at 5:00 p.m.

1. Confirmation of meeting notice – Meeting notice was confirmed.
2. Approval of minutes from December 13, 2016 Meeting - Bruce moved to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2016 committee meeting; motion carried 4-0.
3. Public Input – Dustin Marsh was present as a representative of the Eau Claire County Junior Fair and CORBA. He stated he would like to hold a 5K race during the fair at Lowes Creek Park as a part of the fair and would like the consideration of the committee to do so. Tami, as a representative of the Fair Commission, stated the commission was in favor of holding the race. The committee suggested Dustin work with the Fair Committee and Josh to work out acceptable race details.
4. Dredge Spoils Site at Lake Eau Claire – Marlo Orth was present for this item and thanked the committee for the opportunity to answer questions submitted by Kevin. He stated Kevin's questions had been researched in the past. The three current spoils sites were discussed and how two were used when hydraulic dredging were used which deposited spoils much farther away from the lake. Those sites are currently not being used. The third site which is the gravel pit will be full in spring because of recent heavy rain events filling sand traps much quicker than anticipated. Kevin was hoping to come up with a long-term plan which would last indefinitely instead of short-term fixes. Pat asked how long the proposed site would last and Brooke Ludwig said it was calculated to last 25 years. Gary stated he had done some research on dredging across the U.S. and found it takes partnering with local, state and federal government agencies. Also, sand can be reused for other projects but would still require a spoils site to dewater. Buzz Sorge added Lake Eau Claire impacts some 2,000 acres. Pat said he supports the project moving forward. Gary made a motion to approve using the spoils site. Bruce wanted to see a long-range plan and Marlo said there is one the lake association development. Kevin stated he didn't support this as it ruins county forest land and isn't sustainable. He'd like to see the long-range plan and alternatives considered. Pat asked all in favor, Gary, Pat and Bruce stated "aye" and No's from Kevin and Tami. Motion passed 3-2.

5. DNR Fire Warden Approval – Jed Kaurich explained that Fire Wardens issue burning permits. They are also available on the web. He handed out a graph showing a reduction in fires in 2016. Pat signed the 2017 Emergency Fire Warden Organization List as approved unanimously by the committee.
6. Winter Fest Event at Lake Altoona Park – Brian Sandy, Leader-Telegram and organizer for Winter Fest handed out a plan of the park for the event. He said they have met City of Altoona, Emergency Services, and Parks & Forest Department. They will be using mats instead of mulch as in the past. There will be 24 hour security and an ATV club is handling parking. This year a kids' play area is being added and ice hockey tournament. If it is determined the ice is not thick enough, cars will not be allowed to park on the ice. Bruce asked for proof of insurance should a catastrophic event occur and Brian assured him it was adequate. Josh will ask Mr. Zehms to verify for Bruce.
7. Polar Plunge – Karen Kraus was present and explained this was the 18th Year of the Polar Plunge. In the past it had been held at Half Moon Beach but the event had outgrown the site. The event will take place February 28 with tents delivered on Friday and set up and Saturday the rest of the set-up will happen. They will be responsible for garbage and St Croix Rescue as well as Altoona EMS will be in attendance. There will be large police presence. Jamie will be working with Special Olympics. Kevin made a motion to approve the event; motion carried 5-0.
8. Utility Easement Agreement and Resolution for Guettinger Woods by Eau Claire Energy Cooperative – Josh explained that this is an expansion of an existing easement from 30 feet to 40 feet. Bruce made a motion to grant the easement; motion carried 5-0.
9. Proposal to add fill to Lowes Creek Park from Commonweal Development - Jamie Radabaugh and Stuart Schaefer from Commonweal Development were present as well as Steve Haas from Haas Sons Inc. They distributed a topographic map of the park area in question. It was explained there would be an additional 100,000 cubic yards of materials after reclaiming the pit areas that could be for added topography. The development would not disturb existing trails. Commonweal would be willing to work with a trail designer CORBA suggested. No work would done prior to June. Jereme Rauckman and Dustin Marsh were present for this item. Pat suggested a public hearing be held so citizens could give their input. Gary suggested it be held at the Expo Center. Pat suggested the first committee meeting be set for the public hearing. Kevin stated the decision is for the county to make and not CORBA as it was his opinion Lowes Creek Park was already overdeveloped in term of bike trails. He asked if there were more clay in the pits and Steve Haas stated no. Kevin stated spoils sites are needed for dredge materials to be deposited from Lake Altoona and Eau Claire and could this be a spot to place spoils? Would Commonweal Development be willing to truck spoils from lakes? Jereme asked how much top soil is available and was told 6 inches. Bruce made a motion to have a public hearing on this item. Kevin said he felt Josh should write up a proposal with props and cons. Dates were discussed and February 15 at the Expo Center was the date set if possible starting at 6 p.m. The motion carried to hold a public hearing on February 15, 2017 at the Expo Center starting at 6 p.m. if the Expo Center is available. Otherwise the hearing will be held at the Ag Center.
10. 2017 Work Plan and Resolution approval – Staff answered questions of the committee on the work plan, which included the Coon Gut/Pinter Pines property. Gary moved to approve the work plan and resolution; motion carried.

11. Set Free ski, camping, entrance dates - The committee discussed dates and set January 28 for the free ski day. Combining the free entrance and camping weekend was discussed. It was agreed to combine them with the date coinciding with state parks free entrance/fishing weekend June 3 and 4. Gary made a motion to approve the dates as discussed; motion carried.
12. Curling Club Lease Update – Josh stated there was nothing new to report as they will be meeting next week.
13. Stewardship Committee – Kevin reported the Fitz House has been removed. The Stewardship Committee will be holding an event at the property the end of April or beginning of May. The Brown Appraisal is back. An adjoining property may be available that would open access to more county forest parcels as well as the Brown property.
14. Correspondence – Nothing to report
15. Staff and committee reports – Josh will see if Phil Johnson can present the Lake Altoona Master Plan at the next committee meeting however he had stated he had another appointment that evening. The Rifle Club Shooting range lease and grant are coming together.
16. Advisory Committee Input-Assignments – It was suggested the Advisory Committee be invited to the next meeting.
17. Future and pending items – Next meeting January 24, 2017 5 p.m. at the Ag & Resource Center.

Pat moved to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Barone
Committee Clerk

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