

AGENDA
County Of Eau Claire
Committee On Parks & Forest
Tuesday, February 28 – 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 and February 15, 2017 Public Hearing – Discussion/action
3. Public Input
4. Request to hold 5K run/walk fundraiser at Lowes Creek Park by Ben Robertson – Discussion/action
5. Resolution 16-17/099 – Permission to allow Consumers Coop to reclaim clay pit areas in Lowes Creek Park – Discussion/action
6. Request to prohibit access to Lowes Creek Park during the Eau Claire County Junior Fair between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. by the Fair Committee – Discussion/action
7. Request by UWEC ski team to hold race at Tower Ridge March 11- Appearance by Emily Delaney - Discussion/action
8. Request to hold 2017 Beer Mile race at Tower Ridge – Appearance by Timothy McManus - Discussion/Action
9. Discussion with Ski Sprites – Appearance by Tom Wagener - Discussion
10. Sustainable Forestry Grant application- Discussion/action
11. Ski Striders Lighting Project at Tower Ridge – Discussion/action
12. Expo/Curling Club Lease Extension - Discussion
13. Stewardship Committee report – Discussion/action
14. Correspondence
15. Staff and committee reports
16. Advisory Committee Input/Assignments
17. Future and pending items

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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 be 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 pros 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

rb

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

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 6:00 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; Jay and Laura Plummer, Jerry Christenson, Jon Riggs, Steve Wood, Bjorn Bischoff, Kevin Matthew, Andy Tyriver, Linda Slowiak, Brad Kemis, and Dustin Marsh, Chippewa Off-Road Bike Association (CORBA); Stuart Schaefer and Jamie Radabaugh, Commonweal Development; Steve Haas, Haas Sons Inc; Mike Buck, Mega Co-op; Taylor Limberg, UWEC Student Office of Sustainability; Dean Roth, Vince Barone, Terry Koziol, James Ulberg, Al Lechleitner, Valerie & Bob Henrich, Steven Majstorovic, Signe Matson, Disa Wahlstrand, Brian Merkel, John Strasahl, Anne Ryan, Molly Hern, Cynthia Hunt, Pamela Ogden, Jim Radloff, Jean Voeks, Steve Sorge, Sue McDonald and Glory Adams, Citizens. There were others in attendance that did not sign the attendance sheet.

STAFF PRESENT: Jody Gindt, Josh Pedersen and Bobbi Barone

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patrick LaVelle at 6:00 p.m. and committee and staff members introduced themselves to the audience.

1. Confirmation of meeting notice – Meeting notice was confirmed.
2. Public Hearing: Proposed reclamation of Clay Pit Sites at Lowes Creek County Park by Commonweal Development.

Pat stated the Lowes Creek Park pit site had been used to mine clay that was used to line the county-owned Landfill. At the time reclamation was not required and the pit areas were never filled. Since then ski and bike trails have been developed on the site.

Kevin added that the issue is about reclaiming the pit areas and not about further planning on park use.

Commonweal Development Representative Stuart Schaefer stated the project will be removing fill from the property on the southeast corner of the intersection of Hwy 93 and I94, formerly known as the Frank Carr property, and depositing it in the Lowes Creek Park Clay Pits. He showed aerials and plats of the project areas.

Jon Riggs, a park user, stated he hoped issues of soil compaction and monitoring wells would be seriously considered when planning and, if approved, reclamation is carried out. Stuart said there would be no issue with the monitoring wells as he had spoken with a hydrologist who felt there would be no impact.

Steven Sorge, a skier, saw the pit areas as a “teenage wasteland” and felt they should be left as is.

Pat iterated that the developer will do no wetland trading or banking in order to get the project approved by the DNR.

Anne Ryan asked if there was an alternative site for placing fill? Stuart said there are other sites but this site is the most feasible for depositing the fill.

Molly Hern stated she walks her dogs in the area and was worried the reclamation may not be done well. Kevin Matthew is a biker and skier and thinks this could become a positive improvement to the park.

Chippewa Off-Road Bike Association (CORBA) representatives Steve Wood and Andy Tyriver gave an overview of CORBA, which is a non-profit organization and seeks to develop multi-use trails. CORBA has three major events each year and has communicated those dates with Commonweal Development so neither activity would conflict with the other should the request be granted. They emphasized trail building is done in cooperation with other user groups. Initially CORBA felt the use would not be a good idea but after talking with other people and Commonweal Development, the potential of changing the topography of the pit area and partnering with Commonweal, it could be a positive change. CORBA submitted and discussed some additional conditions with Commonweal.

Terry (no last name given), an Eau Claire County resident, asked about a parking lot off 93 and was told there was none planned.

Jon Riggs asked if there would be a plan showing what the final project will be somewhat like the Lake Altoona Park Master Plan and Stuart stated a plan could be commissioned by the county for the park.

Brian Merkel asked about specific trails being lost and were told they would not be.

Steve Hass thought it would take about 150 days to move the fill. There would be an agreement as to when work would commence and could have other specific conditions. John Strosahl estimated 160,000 dump truckloads to move the fill. Kevin asked about the Frank Carr site and what percentage of the property would be needed and Stuart said all 40 acres. Kevin asked for an example of a reclaimed site and was given Phoenix Park.

Pat explained that the committee will meet again February 28. The committee will receive comments via mail or email thru Wednesday, February 22.

Cynthia Hein was concerned about more commercial development.

Valeria Rich said originally she did not see it positively but after listening to the issues she sees this as a positive by closing the Frank Carr site permanently and reclaiming the park clay pit area.

Jim Radloff said Lowes Creek Park should have a master plan done like Lake Altoona Park.

Glory Adams wondered if this was setting a precedent by letting the developer deposit material on county land. Kevin said he as well questioned it.

Laura Plummer, CORBA, said Lowes Creek Park is known nationally and this is an opportunity to ratchet it up more.

Tami made a motion to close the public hearing and adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Barone
Committee Clerk

rb

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 16-17/099

Consumers Cooperative Association owns property across Highway 93 from the area on the east side of Lowes Creek County Park known as the “Clay Pits”. Commonweal Development Corporation has an agreement with Consumers Cooperative Association to purchase the property and develop it. Commonweal Development Corporation is proposing to provide approximately 830,000 cubic yards of clean fill, at no cost, to the County to fill in the “Clay Pits”. The fill is mostly sand, and is being excavated from the property to the northwest of the park site at the corner of Highway 93 and Lorch Avenue. Commonweal Development Corporation will have the fill hauled and spread as requested by the County. Ayres Associates has provided the attached diagram showing the pits where the fill can be used and indicating that there is enough fill to entirely restore the affected areas. Additional fill is available to create varying elevations in the topography or possibly build a berm between the park and the Waste Research facility if requested by the County. Also attached are an aerial view showing the proposed trucking route for the fill, an aerial view of Lowes Creek Park and an aerial view showing the location of bike, ski and walking trails.

The Clay Pits area has never been restored following the removal of clay and other material during the 1980s and 90s primarily for construction and expansion of the Seven Mile Creek Landfill. There is little vegetation and there are no trees in the Clay Pits.

In addition to spreading the fill Commonweal Development Corporation will cover consultant and design costs, will be responsible for stripping and spreading black dirt as well as planting trees and grasses. If Commonweal’s project costs do not exceed \$4.5 million dollars, it will donate \$25,000 for Lowes Creek County Park as directed by the Parks and Forest Committee.

This is an excellent example of a public-private partnership that is consistent with the County Strategic Plan, specifically the priorities of “Ensuring Financial Stability” and to “Improve Collaboration” while enhancing the values of being “Good Stewards of County Resources”, “Fiscally Responsible”, and “Open and Accountable”. This project will allow a little used area of Lowes Creek County Park to be restored and used by the public for any park uses as determined by the Committee on Parks and Forest. Potential uses include expanding and enhancing the bicycle and ski trails, building soccer fields, baseball/ softball diamonds or creating a natural prairie.

Highway Commissioner Jon Johnson estimates it would cost the County approximately \$2.8 million to \$3.8 million dollars to contract for or have the County haul clean fill with existing trucks respectively to restore the Clay Pits. The difference in the cost estimate is primarily due

to the fact that the County does not have the large material hauling equipment for a job of this size. His estimates assume free, easy to load fill from Lake Altoona. No work would begin on the restoration of the Clay Pits until all permits were obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and the County. County planning and development department staff have done an initial review and determined a County Erosion Control Permit will be necessary as well as a Storm Water Permit and that there are no Clean Water Grant or zoning issues. The goal is to have the State and County review and approve the final grading plan on or before July 1, 2017.

This public-private partnership would accomplish a number of things:

1. **Fill the clay pits at Lowes Creek County Park**- The County always intended to reclaim the Lowes Creek County Park Clay Pits, but has never had the resources to do so. Now 35 years after the initial mining this public-private partnership would result in the environmental damage done being repaired and that area of Lowes Creek County Park turned into a highly utilized asset for the people of Eau Claire County.
2. **Close the Frank Carr Mining site** - The Frank Carr property, currently owned by Consumers Cooperative Association, is an active and open non-metallic mining site. It has been open for over 45 years and is approved for the removal of 2,000,000 cubic tons of material. As a result of this public-private partnership closure of the Frank Carr Mining site would occur within approximately 6 months of the project start with a full reclamation of the site within 1 year of the closure.
3. **Facilitate the construction of a major retail project** - As a result of this public-private partnership the proposed development with the retail project should have an added valuation approximately \$30,000,000, resulting in annual Real Estate Taxes of over \$690,000., with approximately \$36,000.00 going to Eau Claire County each year. The county also stands to receive over \$210,000.00 annually in sales tax revenue, based on average store sales for this retailer of over \$42,000,000 each year and the store would create approximately 65 full time and 150 part time jobs.

Fiscal Impact: No added cost to the County.
Respectfully Submitted,

Keith R. Zehms
Corporation Counsel

KRZ/yk
Ordinance/16-17.099 Fact

2
3 - ACCEPTING APPROXIMATELY 830,000 CUBIC YARDS OF FREE, CLEAN FILL
4 FROM CONSUMERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION TO RECLAIM THE AREA
5 KNOWN AS THE CLAY PITS IN THE AREA ON THE EAST SIDE OF LOWES
6 CREEK COUNTY PARK-

7
8 WHEREAS, the area of Lowes Creek Park known as the "Clay Pits" was mined in the 1980's
9 and 90's primarily for construction and expansion of the Seven Mile Creek Landfill; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the Frank Carr property, located across highway 93, currently owned by
12 Consumers Cooperative Association, is an active and open non-metallic mining site approved for
13 removal of 2,000,000 cubic tons of material; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Commonweal Development Corporation has an agreement to purchase said
16 property from Consumers Cooperative Association with the intention of developing the Frank Carr
17 site with a retail project with an added valuation estimated at \$30,000,000 and creating
18 approximately 65 full time jobs with additional real estate and sales tax revenue going to the County
19 and that would result in site closure within approximately 6 months of the project start with full
20 reclamation within one year of closure; and

21
22 WHEREAS, Commonweal Development Corporation will donate approximately 830,000
23 cubic yards of clean fill to Eau Claire County, haul the material and spread it in the manner requested
24 by the County to reclaim the Clay Pits; and

25
26 WHEREAS, work would only begin after receiving DNR and County approval and permits;
27 and the County through the parks and forest committee approving the grading and drainage plan that
28 meets DNR requirements on or before July 1, 2017; and

29
30 WHEREAS, the short distance to haul the fill will minimize the amount of fuel used,
31 pollution created and wear on the roads.

32
33 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors
34 accepts approximately 830,000 cubic yards of clean fill from Commonweal Development
35 Corporation, or its assigned, to reclaim the area known as the Clay Pits in the area on the east side of
36 Lowes Creek County Park.

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors accepts this
39 clean fill on the conditions and timeline outlined in this resolution and that the County Administrator
40 is authorized to take any action necessary and sign any documents necessary to effectuate the intent
41 of this resolution.

42
43 _____
44 _____
45 _____
46 _____ Committee on Parks and Forest
47 _____

Bobbi Barone

From: Brad Kemis <bkemis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2017 3:04 PM
To: Bobbi Barone
Subject: Lowes Creek Clay Pit Infill

I'm writing in favor of reclaiming the clay pits at Lowes Creek Park. We moved to Eau Claire 2 years ago and purchased a house that was within biking distance to the park. We frequent the park to hike, bike and ski.

I see several benefits to this project.

1. If done correctly it will be a great improvement to the park. This section of the park receives very little use and would benefit from improvements in vegetation and topography. The pits are too wet to be useful since they do not drain after a rain event.
2. It will reclaim the clay pit areas of the park that should have taken place years ago.
3. It will close an open mining pit at the park, this will ensure that the park remains a park and not open to further mining or development.
4. This earth moving project will happen quickly and have the least impact possible to the park users. If not approved the park may never be reclaimed or be filled gradually disrupting the park for years to come.
5. Infilling the pits with the Lorch Ave material will also benefit the county with economic development.
 - a. Developing and infill lot that will bring in jobs, sales and property tax to the county and its residences.
 - b. Close the sand mine permit which would have a negative noise and traffic impact on the immediate area.

Brad Kemis

2246 Hatch St

Eau Claire, WI 54701

Bobbi Barone

From: Bob Swanson <rjssimplelife@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2017 1:51 PM
To: Bobbi Barone
Subject: Lowes Creek Park Improvements

I'm not familiar with all the details of placement of fill at the park, but what information I have received it sounds like a benefit to the community as a whole to go through with this project. The park is used by a multitude of people from our community including walkers, runners, bikers and skiers. Mostly it's used by people who are interested in having fun in a healthy way. I believe that anything this community does to encourage a healthy lifestyle is a plus.

Therefore, I encourage cooperation with CORBA, County Parks and Forestry, and Commonweal.

Bob Swanson
Altoona

Bobbi Barone

From: patree@cvol.net
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2017 2:46 PM
To: Bobbi Barone
Subject: Comment - Lowes Ck County Park

1. I have no comment specific to the TRANSPORTATION of soil from the proposed Commonweal Development site to the gravel pit; my comments (below) reflect future management of the gravel pit site should this action transpire.
2. I support converting and utilizing a publicly owned, non-productive area(ie. gravel pit) into a sustainably managed forest production area.
3. County forests are eligible to receive seedlings and development stock from the DNR Reforestation (Nursery) Program at cost. It would be worth investigating if this option also is available for county land, not designated as county forest, being managed for forestry purposes (contact Joseph.Vandehey@wisconsin.gov for eligibility information).
4. Should nursery stock be available through the state, versus a private vendor, then I recommend capitalizing on the cost savings to implement an educational component in this project - (ie. hiking trails, benches, signage).
5. All 4th graders in Wisconsin are eligible to receive a free seedling from the DNR. Schools must apply on-line by March and seedling are generally delivered locally by mid-April. Coordinating the gravel pit tree planting (small area only) with school children could offer an excellent community awareness and public relations outreach for an Arbor/Earth Day event. Yes, these take extra time to coordinate and implement, but the long term dividends may be worth it. Consider working with the Boy Scouts to get these seedlings planted as an alternative. While not politically savvy at the moment, one could also weave into the message the value trees offer for climate adaptation.

Bobbi Barone

From: corvette99 <corvette99@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2017 9:11 AM
To: Bobbi Barone
Subject: Lowes Creek County Park

The proposal to dump sand removed from a potential development property to Lowes Creek County Park caught my interest. Please accept this input for consideration:

- The soil removed from the park 40 years ago was clay as stated
- The soil to be moved into the area is sand
- The proposal is for trees to be planted and for prairie restoration on that site, among new trails, etc. For the tree and prairie plantings to be successful in sandy soil, I propose the Commonwealth Development be financially responsible for: the hiring of at least a Master Gardener or at most a Professional Garden/Prairie Restoration Expert for 10 years; correct choice of plants; and watering schedule for at least 10 years until the plants are established; protection from animals/deer/people/machinery/bikes destroying the plants. The material being moved must not contain any wire, cement, fill, or toxic materials. I recall that at the development site a few years ago, there were some "protected species". If that is still the case, then the DNR must be involved from the beginning.
- Without the above, it will not enhance the park, and I would be against the proposal. The County will have the ultimate responsibility for success!

Town of Brunswick Resident

Mary E. Carlson

715-833-7123

Bobbi Barone

From: Marlene Schmisek <mdschmisek@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:16 PM
To: Bobbi Barone
Subject: Lowes Creek County Park Commonweal Development

My questions /input regarding the sand fill:

- 1) Where is the clay pit located that would be filled in?
- 2) Has Commonweal given a drawing/ideas of what it would look like after sand is poured then trees added?
- 3) I live three miles from Lowes Creek, and we use it on a weekly basis. I love it the way it is
- 3) I do not want to see ball fields put in at Lowes Creek. Lets keep this park natural. It soothes the mind and soul to be out there without extra noise of ball fields.

Thank you.

Marlene

Bobbi Barone

From: Richard Johnston <djrrunner124@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:08 PM
To: Bobbi Barone
Subject: Commonweal Proposal for Lowes Creek County Park

Hello,
My name is Dick Johnston and I am a resident of Eau Claire County and a frequent user of Lowes Creek County Park. I attended the Wednesday night presentation by Commonweal and Corba on the Lowes Creek Park proposal. I am a frequent user of the park for hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing. I would like to encourage you to accept this proposal by Commonweal which I think could be a great benefit to upgrading the East side of the park. I see this as an opportunity to enhance the terrain and landscaping of the park. If some of the trails can be upgraded as part of this project it could greatly improve the park for all user groups. I also think Corba's input should be taken into consideration on this project since they have a track record of building sustainable trails and working for the good of the community. Lowes Creek Park is already a great asset to the Eau Claire area community. Please take this opportunity to enhance this park.

Thank you,
Dick Johnston, 1709 Taft Ave. Eau Claire.

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Bobbi Barone

From: Tom and Bonnie <tomandlav@charter.net>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 12:31 PM
To: Bobbi Barone
Cc: Pat LaVelle; Gregg Moore; Kathy Clark; Ray Henning; Colleen Bates; Mark Beckfield
Subject: Fill at Lowes Creek County Park

Good day,

I would like to offer the following public input on the topic of Commonwealth Development's proposal to place 800,000 c.y. of fill into the former clay borrow area at Lowes Creek County Park.

First, I will state that in general terms I endorse the proposal. I can see how this would offer the county a chance to get the site back to its general site conditions the way they were before the clay was removed. Working with the P & F staff as well as park users and other concerned citizens is the best way to go. The only cautionary point I would make is that after the clay was removed there were site drainage issues put forth by the DNR and others that were addressed relating to surface and subsurface outflows which entered Lowes Creek, which is, I believe, still a class 1 trout stream and thus must be dealt with very cautiously.

On the other side of the scale, such an activity will obviously offer a positive financial impact for the developer. They wouldn't be proposing this if they it was going to cost them more money than other options. They are a business and not totally altruistic.

Because of this significant developer financial advantage I want to address remuneration to the County. Using a typical rate to operate a quad-axle dump truck at, say, \$90/hour I would project that the time to load a truck at the excavation site, drive over to the dump site, tip the load, drive back to the loading site and then maybe waiting a few minutes in line for the next load would take maybe 15 minutes. That equates to 4 loads per hour at about 15 c.y. per load or 60 c.y. per hour. With the \$90 rate that equates to a haul cost of \$1.50/cy. If the developer has to haul that material as little as 2 or 3 miles further for disposal then it is likely they can only haul 3 loads per hour or at a unit haul price of \$2.00/cy. and the price only rises as the haul distance increases.

My point is that the County should be asking for a reasonable fee from the developer to accept the material. I saw in a newspaper article today (2/17) an amount of payment to the County listed as \$25,000. I feel that is significantly lower than it should be. If the County only calculated a fee at 1/2 the amount per cubic yard the developer is like to save, in other words a fee of \$0.25/cy, then the County should consider charging the developer a fee of at least \$200,000 and in my opinion those funds should be used exclusively for future parks development such as paying for part of the suggested enhancements at Lake Altoona County Park.

I know the developer will reply that not paying the county so much now will be made up later by increased property taxes from future development. However, if the development site is really as valuable as the developer thinks then a \$200,000 or higher fee paid to the county will be of minor significance to the chance of the future development actually occurring.

Thank you for allowing my input and please give these comments due consideration.

Respectfully,

Thomas R. Walther, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE
Retired E.C. County Highway Commissioner
Damon Street
Eau Claire, WI.

Bobbi Barone

From: Leslie Foster <ecleslie@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 10:22 AM
To: Bobbi Barone
Subject: Lowes Creek Park sand issue

I am writing this email to vehemently protest the proposed plan to use Lowes Creek Park as a convenient dump site for local developers wishing to dispose of sand from their private property in a cheap and easy manner. The proposal totally disrespects the Park, the flora and fauna that inhabit it.

The Park is an absolute treasure, frequently used and appreciated by the nearby tax-paying property owners. It should be protected from this gross abuse.

Also unacceptable is the thought of multiple sand trucks disrupting the neighborhood, ruining the roads, threatening the local wildlife, endangering the children, creating unpleasant noise, dust and dirt issues.

I ask that you do not put the unreasonable demands of a few above the best interests of the many, for it would indeed be an unfair, unwise stewardship of our environment.

Please make a wise decision. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie Foster

Bobbi Barone

From: Jeremy McBride <jdmcbrides@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 8:58 AM
To: Bobbi Barone
Subject: Proposal for Deposit of Fill at Lowes Creek County Park

Lowes Creek County park is an asset for our community as it provides beauty and year round recreation that is available to all area citizens. If fill is to be deposited, please carefully consider how adding "fill" could be used to enhance recreational use of the park, without harming its natural beauty. Our public parks should not be a dumping ground for private business, unless it leads to improvement that "fits" with the character of the park. Thank you. I have confidence that the right thing for our community and environment will be done.

-Jeremy

I received a voicemail message on the Parks & Forest Dept phone from Jan Washburn, an Eau Claire County resident and user of Lowes Creek Park from 2/18/17 at 10:21 a.m. She said she has no problems with reclaiming the clay pits but would not support building ball field on the pit sites. She would rather see the area revegetated.

In addition, Arlyn Stertz phoned yesterday, Tuesday February 21 and basically stated the same thing as Jan Washburn above. Arlyn is a Ski Strider and volunteer.

2017 Powder Keg Snowshoe & Fatbike Races

Facts and Figures

DATE & LOCATION: Saturday, January 28th, at the Eau Claire Expo Center and Lowes Creek Co Park

EVENT GOALS

- Raise funds for the Chippewa Off Road Bike Association (CORBA).
- Provide snowshoe and fatbike enthusiasts with a high-quality local event.
- Draw tourism dollars by attracting participants from throughout the Upper-Midwest.

TOTAL # OF REGISTRATIONS: 155

Snowshoe Registrations	90
Fatbike Registrations	65
Combined Registrations	12

TOTAL # OF RACERS: 138

Total Snowshoe Racers	81
10K Snowshoers	35
5K Snowshoers	43
1-MI Snowshoers	3
Total Fatbike Racers	57 (highest number to-date)
24-MI Fatbikers	27
12-MI Fatbikers	30
Combined Racers	12

PERCENTAGE OF RACERS FROM OUTSIDE WISCONSIN: 28%

PERCENTAGE OF RACERS FROM OUTSIDE EAU CLAIRE AREA: 57%

Percentage of Snowshoers from outside Eau Claire Area:	52%
Percentage of Fatbikers from outside Eau Claire Area:	65%

OVERALL GENDER BREAKDOWN: 38% FEMALE / 62% MALE

Snowshoe Gender Breakdown:	48% Female / 52% Male
Fatbike Gender Breakdown:	25% Female / 75% Male

PARTICIPANT AGE RANGE: 9-76

AGE GROUP BREAKDOWN:

	0-19 yrs	20-29 yrs	30-39 yrs	40-49 yrs	50-59 yrs	60+ yrs
All Racers	6%	11%	23%	25%	23%	12%
Snowshoers	7%	11%	22%	20%	26%	13%
Fatbikers	5%	11%	23%	31%	20%	11%

FACEBOOK EVENT FOLLOWERS: 365

TOTAL # OF CORBA VOLUNTEERS: 53

FEES PAID TO EAU CLAIRE COUNTY: \$246

FUNDS RAISED FOR CORBA: \$1770

SPONSOR BUSINESSES: Eau Claire Bike & Sport, Mayo Clinic Health System, Northern Lites Snowshoes, Scheels, emBARK, Spring Street Sports, Oakwood Hills Animal Hospital, Eau Claire Curling Club, Rassbach Communications, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative