

TOWN OF SHELBY

County of La Crosse

State of Wisconsin



2800 Ward Ave

La Crosse, WI 54601

Phone: (608)788-1032

Email: info@townofshelby.com

APPROVED

Park and Vacant Land Committee Draft Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, November 7, 2022

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: 2800 Ward Ave, La Crosse, WI 54601

Present: Co-Chairperson Renee Knutson, Co-Chairperson Tim Ehler, Committee Members Jeffrey Butler, Monica Redmond, Jean Wiggert, Josh Blum, Administrator Christina Peterson, and Town Administrator Christina Peterson

Excused: Committee Members Meredith Tomesh, Brad Reinhart

Attendance List: Jed Olson (3401 Farnam).

1. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Knutson at – 5:34 p.m.
2. Approve Minutes from 8/1/2022 - Motion by Butler to approve minutes from 8/1/2022 with corrections as noted, second by Ehler. Motion carried unanimously. Knutson suggested we contact Public Works to clear the sand accumulation at our trailheads.
3. Citizen's Concerns - Jed Olson gave an overview of a project proposed by the Outdoor Recreation Alliance (ORA) which is on the meeting agenda. He explained ORA is fundraising to purchase the Five Pines Property, which is located in Shelby off of Hwy 33. The goal of the ORA Board is to create an outdoor recreation area with a park feel and a name such as "Community Trail Farm". Jed said there may be some potential for commercial use such as equipment rental and refreshments. There is potential on the site for a variety of trails including flatter trails along the edge of the woods. ORA's next step is to review the level of interest from the community and philanthropic organizations. He invited all to participate in a survey to offer suggestions on partnerships for the project. Jed offered to keep the Town updated.
4. Nelson Property – Nelson Property Update (Parcels 11-358-0/11-375-0). Peterson gave an update that the Bluffland Coalition and the County PRD Committee has recommended approval to the County Board for approval of funding the \$5,000 for purchase.
5. Swing Pricing – Knutson presented options for an ADA swing and an infant/adult combo swing. One example was a Jenn Swing with a price of \$600-\$700. It was suggested we look for grants through the DNR or La Crosse Community Foundation. Knutson will work with Terry Wright on options and pricing.
6. Josh Blum email regarding mention of bikes in Town Minutes – Blum recapped his email and asked that the Town have an open mind on bikes and not make a blanket statement to limit bikes on Shelby trails. Discussion occurred regarding minutes and how recent minutes mentioning bikes may not have been clear or complete. Ehler and Knutson explained that the conversation at the August 2022 Town Board was taken out of context since the minutes did not cover the entire conversation. Peterson explained there is no urgency to develop trail regulations. There was general consensus to wait until the committee and staff have adequate time to properly plan for trail regulations, considering input from community, user demand, maintenance needs, enforcement issues, etc. Peterson suggested that as Town Board minutes noted, a subcommittee could start walking the trails to make notes.
7. Promote Fall/Winter Usage of Shelters – Knutson showed drafts of a flyer for the open and enclosed shelter. She asked for input regarding promoting the shelters for year-round use. Some issues to

consider are the lack of heat in the enclosed shelter, demand/use of parks after the winterization of bathrooms, additional revenue, checking/cleaning on weekends. Knutson suggested posting the flyer at the shelters with a QR code link to the website for the public to get more information about rentals.

8. Tree/Bench Donation Brochure Review – Knutson showed a draft of a brochure for benches/tree donation. It was suggested that the photo of the bench on the front of the brochure be the exact bench that has been installed in Shelby and that all of the detailed views may not be needed. It was agreed that the bench and the tree donation program could both be listed on the same brochure.
9. Outdoor Recreational Alliance (ORA) Project Proposal for Five Pines Property - It was noted that most of the committee did not receive the documents in time to read through prior to the meeting. Jed Olson gave a project overview on this topic at the beginning of the meeting. The committee decided to table the discussion on this project. Peterson pointed out that ORA is a non-profit organization that plans to purchase private property. ORA is not asking the Town to partner in ownership or funding. ORA had requested and received support from the Town Board on October 25th, 2022, which was a requirement for ORA to request funds from La Crosse County. Knutson reminded Peterson that she had suggested at the prior Town Board meeting to write a letter of support to reference the context of the support. Peterson will prepare a letter as requested.
10. Project List and Budget for 2023 – Knutson prepared a summary of potential projects for 2023 and reviewed with the committee. Peterson gave a report of net Park project expense for 2022 (\$8,247.87) and recalled telling the committee that balance of the budget for 2022 could be carried forward to the 2023 budget to complete projects planned for 2022 and potentially allow for a larger project in 2023. The draft Town Budget has \$28,000 allocated for park projects.
11. Administrator Report - Peterson reported on the Hwy 35 Goose Island Connector Trail funding.
12. Public Works Report - Knutson received a list from Terry including Mowing of Butterfly Field this week. In July they mowed the path. Parks are winterized. Lions Club plans to have the Light Up the Park again this year in Mormon Coulee Park and are looking into adding a new light pole(s) for parking and additional electrical outlets at their expense. Town will supply porta-potties
13. Committee Member Reports (shared earlier in meeting)
 - a. Butler asked about the project to update the town logo and Renee said she is following up with the designer.
 - b. Wiggert voiced concern about cars parking on Hagen and Cedar to access the trail. She mentioned the potential to add a couple parking spots north of the bridge/Gazebo Park area.
14. Adjournment. Motion by Butler, second by Redmond to adjourn Park and Vacant Land Committee Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Next regular meeting will take place Monday, December 5, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Christina Peterson, Administrator