

TOWN OF WESTPORT
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
Kennedy Administration Building
Community Meeting Room
5387 Mary Lake Road
Waunakee, WI 53597

MINUTES – May 1, 2013 5:30p.m.

1. Call to order at 5:35p.m at the home of Fran Bridge in Westshire Village

Members present: Enge, Bridge, Trotter, Holm, and Schall

Members absent: None.

Others present: Jim Stevenson.

2. Approve Minutes

As the group met for a walking tour, minutes from last meeting were not available for approval.

3. Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda

None

4. Westshire Conservancy/Jackson Landing Park Improvements Status/Update

Jim Stevenson led the group on a tour of the recently completed work done at Westshire Conservancy/Jackson Landing. The group was impressed with the overall work done in the park including the new boardwalks installed, new benches, and relocated boardwalk trail leading out to the viewing platform. Enge noted that Capital Water Trails had recently worked to clean up fallen trees adjacent to the creek area. It was also noted that the Lily of the Valley associated with the original Jackson cottage is starting to come up adjacent to the main trail. Bridge commented on the wonderful work that had taken place allowing for viewing of the wildlife in the area which includes bird watching and multiple nesting geese. It was also noted that the canoe/kayaking landing adjacent to the bridge was now available for use to access Lake Mendota.

The group agreed that future considerations should be made for an additional footbridge to the north of the existing bridge to allow crossing the creek to connect the trails at two points. The group also discussed the future opportunity to extend the trail toward Kupfer Road and how the trail can provide a connection from the Town Hall. The group agreed that this should be studied.

Jim Stevenson is to review and work with Town of Westport to repair washout damage to the trail caused by recent rainfalls. Remediation will include the use of PVC pipe to allow water to migrate under the trail. Jim noted that the newly built benches will be secured in place.

The committee agreed that the Town should research how to initiate a “Friendship Group” for the conservancy and incorporate a “Heritage Garden” into the park. The question was raised as to whether there was “seed money” available for this effort.

Jim noted that he will be speaking to the Waunakee/Westport Rotary to present the recent work done at Westshire Conservancy/ Jackson Landing and offered to be available for other community groups.

5. Park/Trail Maintenance and Development Discussion/Recommendations

Enge commented that Capital Water Trails will be assisting in the cleanup of trees over the next two weeks along the Six Mile Creek water trail. Enge to research with the Town as to how to incorporate creek side improvements adjacent to the Woodland Drive culverts at Six Mile Creek as a canoe/kayak launch area similar to the Westshire Conservancy/Jackson Landing launch.

6. Miscellaneous Business/Forthcoming Events

Holm introduced the idea of incorporating a “Pickle Ball” court within the existing tennis courts to the committee. Pickle ball is a combination of ping-pong and tennis. It uses paddles and a unique plastic ball (similar to a wiffle ball) and is played on a badminton sized court. This may require painting additional lines on one of the courts and the ability to adjust the net to a lower height. The Town is in the process of resurfacing the existing tennis courts which may allow the opportunity to make any adjustments. The committee agreed that additional research should be done including soliciting the interest of community members and contacting a “Hitters Sportsplex” representative to understand the current level of interest in the Middleton community. If there is minimal cost to incorporate and the community is interested, the committee agreed that this should be pursued further.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 5th at the Westport Town Hall. A walking tour of the DNR trails will take place.

Adjournment at 6:53 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Reported by:

Mark A. Trotter

Acting Secretary Park Committee Meeting