

**TOWN OF WESTPORT
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

Kennedy Administration Building
Community Meeting Room
5387 Mary Lake Road
Waunakee, WI 53597

MINUTES – October 7, 2015 at 5:30p.m.

Members present: Mick Holm, Terry Enge, Sheldon Schall and Fran Bridge

Members absent: Mark Trotter and Dave O'Malley

Public attendance: Pam Rathsack

July minutes approved by Schall 2nd Holm. August minutes approved Holm 2nd Schall.
September minutes approved Holm 2nd Schall.

Pam Rathsack was in attendance with photographs of the Dane county upper Yahara trail system as it relates to her concerns. Mainly the trail, she feels, should be constructed closer to the O'Malley property as it provides an easier navigation of the trail. This concern is due to the recent sections of the trail being signed for identifying the trail. Westport Park Committee has maintained a trail closer to the river to respect the O'Malley's privacy. The committee has tried to communicate with Brian Mexner from Dane County parks following a discussion with the residents and Mr. Mexner regarding trail identity. The committee has not heard back from Dane County parks although initially they presented the committee with the trail signs for marking the trail. The Park Committee informed Ms. Rathsack that the concerns will be discussed in the future once more information is obtained.

The upper Yahara River trails both north and south have been trail marked as to ease of access and identity.

Fran Bridge turned in a letter of resignation from the Park Committee due to health reasons.

Sheldon Schall presented a picture of a bike station along a bike path in northern Wisconsin. Holm commented he has also seen these in his travels. The station has an air pump and some tools for maintenance of bicycles. Our future park system could include these installations.

Schall, Holm, Enge joined 3 other Mary lake residents at the trail head of the Montadon trail Arboretum drive and Hogan road. The trail ends at the Kennedy property agricultural fields. Enge with the approval of Don Tierney this past summer was removing honey suckle along the banks overlooking the remnant prairie along this trail. He informed the neighbors of the work and all were enthusiastic of opening more view sheds to the prairie below. It is a work in progress. In 1998 the Park Committee met with Bill & Dave Kennedy, Don Tierney, and Tom Bunbury as to advancing regional trails in Westport. We now have trail corridors on both the Tierney and Bunbury lands due to development in these areas. The Kennedys shared at that

time that if they ever decided to develop, the trail would best be constructed in the environmental area of their lands away from the agricultural lands. On this hike we noted the environmental area consisting of acres of woods in the eastern edge of their land. If they do not develop, a possibility would be to purchase easements from them to continue the regional trail. It would have the potential of linking to our existing upper Yahara trails.

Enge also had conversations with Tim Ziegler as to opening up more of the DNR land for park space. There is a beautiful area with large oaks and the six mile creek and the park's existing trails. There is great potential for this to be a very scenic area with the removal of the under growth in this area. Enge will be working with Ziegler yet this fall to open some of the area.

Minutes provided by Terry Enge