

**TOWN OF WESTPORT
PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MINUTES – December 2, 2015 at 5:30p.m.

Members present: Dave O'Malley, Mark Trotter and Terry Enge

Absent: Mick Holm, Sheldon Schall

Also in attendance: Brad Robinson

No public comment on matters not on agenda

November meeting minutes approved by O'Malley, 2nd Trotter

Mary Lake survey sheets were given out and taken home by some of the members to be distributed among Mary Lake residents over the coming month. The survey has also been sent online to some Mary Lake residents that can be contacted in this way.

Enge mentioned that Wilson had applied and received from Dane County a grant in the amount of \$150,000 plus to be applied to the future bike path for 2016 along Woodland drive from Mary Lake road to Hwy M.

The committee met because they felt it important to review the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the Town that was adopted in 2009. Since that time the outdoor recreation plan has changed somewhat as mentioned above with additional bike paths being installed in the Township as well as other recreational areas. The committee will meet again in January as to allow the committee to review, make changes and discuss possible wording for an updated comprehensive plan. Additional park space has been obtained with the purchase of Holy Wisdom natural area and trails from Dane County parks. Other areas added since the 2009 plan include: DNR wilderness area and trails; the upper Yahara river north and south trails and environmental areas; Bishops Bay neighborhood parks, bike and hiking trails; Carriage Ridge park additions and trail additions; and the purchase by Dane County parks of the Saddlebrook property.

There is a need for additional changes to the '09 plan. Jackson landing is completed and should no longer have the priority stated in the plan. The river road trail should be revisited. The bong road trail may need additional wording. Members would like clarification regarding the location of the south neighborhood park mentioned in the plan.

Additional park space as noted above should be added but also could be found on available Town lands for the future. The Willows farm fields are Town owned. The Town park could be expanded to the east for connecting trails.

Another topic for discussion was the transitioning of older neighborhoods that are now seeing younger families and the possibility of adding future park space in these residential areas.

Members are working alongside the Historic Preservation Commission as they are evolving their plans to locate silos on abandoned farms which are being identified and incorporated into park space.

Trotter mentioned a consultant was hired and a new joint committee is being formed to represent both the Town and the Village with regards to the recreation plan. The new committee would welcome the help from the Town Park Committee to update the plan. The Park Committee felt it was important enough to have a January meeting to add, remove and update specific wording to the recreation plan to maintain future grants and document the ratio of park land to the overall land use of the Town of Westport.

Meeting adjourned 6:25 pm on a motion from Trotter, 2nd O'Malley

Minutes provided by Terry Enge