

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

**MINUTES** – May 1, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Mick Holm, Michelle Wing, Amy Freidig, Terry Enge

Absent: David O'Malley

Also attending: Jim Stephenson, Bob Khouri, Kristy Nichols

April Minutes approved by Wing, 2<sup>nd</sup> Holm

The committee met at Willows parking lot for a tour of Jackson Landing given by Jim Stephenson. Jim has done a lot of work over the years with improvements and restoration of Jackson Landing. The area is owned by the town and considered a wilderness park on the edge of North Lake Mendota and offers an abundance of nature to enjoy. We enjoyed birds singing, an eagle flying over, sand hill cranes. Enjoyed scenic areas of the capital building from the western boardwalk and sight seeing along the boardwalk in the east. A shelter with a little library marks the previous home site of Jackson landing. Also a shelter is constructed at the trail head parking lot by Willow Road. It is maintained by the Town maintenance staff along with what Stephenson can provide. He was not allowed a 3<sup>rd</sup> prairie burning this year due to fire dept. restrictions, and hope two will be sufficient in controlling honey suckle and other invasive plants. There is need for more removal of undergrowth so the plants that are encouraged to grow like Lily of the Valley and others can survive. Jim told of the history of the Jackson family and how they hunted and fished the land.

Some of the key work done in the conservancy, moving boardwalk sections in place, was done using prisoners from the Oregon facility and some from a juvenile facility, programs which are no longer in place.

Part of the area is actually privately owned lots from a planned development, Willow Park, that never happened due to changes in the lake level. The Town is still working to acquire all of the lots as most have been donated back to the Town.

Jim and Barry (maintenance) have talked of repairing by raising the western boardwalk and overlook which was damaged from last years heavy rains. Would any grant money be available for replacement of the western overlook as it is small and because of code would have to be improved.

Convert area now leased as corn fields into prairie, which is already an item on our CORP.

Replace/update interpretive signage.