

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
PARKS & LANDS COMMITTEE MEETING
4097 MAIN STREET FISH CREEK WI 54212
TUESDAY, December 13, 2011
8:00 a.m.**

Call to Order: Brian Hackbarth called the Parks and Lands Committee meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Roll Call/Quorum: Chairman Hackbarth stated that a quorum of the committee was present. Members present: Brian Hackbarth, Jayson Merkel, Laurie Buske and Renny Lea. Mike Ashley was absent.

Proper Notice/Adopt Agenda: Hackbarth verified the agenda had been properly noticed. It was moved by Lea and seconded by Buske to adopt the agenda as posted. Motion carried.

Public Present: MaryAnn Blahnik was present.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: It was moved by Merkel and seconded by Buske to approve the minutes as amended of the October 18, 2011 meeting. Motion carried.

Chair Report: Hackbarth reported that he had a meeting with MaryAnn Blahnik regarding the Chambers Island Lighthouse. Hackbarth gave the committee members a handout describing what work needs to be done at the lighthouse. He suggested that the committee members review the handout and prioritize what needs to be fixed and how to do the repairs to maintain the historical manner of the lighthouse. Hackbarth also noted that the new electric box in Clark Park had been installed.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Gardens: Buske reported that the invasive-type bushes have been removed from Noble Square Park. She thanked the Gibraltar Maintenance Department for performing this work. The tulips and daffodils are planted at Sailor Sam's Wall. She did report that the soil is very dense and needs to be supplemented. Hackbarth asked if she will need fresh dirt in spring. Merkel suggested that the committee put down mulch first and then soil on top of that. Buske thanked everyone for working together to get Noble Park Square to look great. Buske will obtain a price quote and order two truck-loads of mulch before the first of the year.

Invasive Species: Lea reported that they had two honeysuckle eradication workshops in November. She stated that the workshops were limited because of lack of volunteers.

Chambers Island Lighthouse: Blahnik thanked Hackbarth for meeting with them. Buske asked if the committee could take pictures of the work that needs to be done at the lighthouse. Buske would like the committee, at its next regularly scheduled meeting, to look at the pictures previously taken at the lighthouse. Blahnik suggested looking into how Rock Island Lighthouse screens their volunteers. Blahnik said she would make a check list for opening, in the spring, and closing in the fall.

Fish Creek Sign Painting: Hackbarth reported that \$3,000 was budgeted for painting the sign. Buske suggested that the committee ask three painters to give bids for painting the sign; Tony Bryzek, Bob Spielman and Troy Hasenjager. Merkel will contact Hasenjager and Hackbarth will speak with Bryzek and Spielman.

Trimming of Ornamental Trees and Bushes: Buske reported that she would like to train the maintenance department about how to properly trim bushes. Merkel stated that the training has to be hands-on, it cannot be verbally explained. Buske said different bushes need to be trimmed at different times of the year. Buske will speak with Hagen as to training the maintenance personnel on properly trimming bushes. She will also start a journal on when to trim certain species of ornamental trees and bushes in the Town's parks.

Invasive Plant Species Work for 2012: Lea outlined the history of the Invasive Species Sub-committee. She reported that the town needs an invasive species team. Buske suggested putting an ad in the paper and contacting the condo associations. Lea pondered whether or not purchasing T-shirts for the Invasive Sub-Committee would draw more volunteers. The committee also suggested asking local Boy Scout Troops to volunteer. Buske stated that there is a new program called "Naturalist Volunteers". The program is based out of the Ridges Sanctuary. Volunteers have to perform a specified amount of community service hours before they are given the title as a "Naturalist Volunteer". Lea will meet with Mr. Tupa and the guidance counselor at Gibraltar Schools, also speak with the Ridges to seek volunteers, and contact the condo associations.

Update 5 Year Plan: The committee updated the five year plan to include 2016.

Scope of Work to be Done at Chambers Island Light House: Hackbarth reported that he called Rock Island Lighthouse to learn more about how they utilize volunteers, however, no one answered. Hackbarth also called Cana Island Lighthouse. He found out that the Cana Island Lighthouse is taken care of by a sub-committee of the Maritime Museum. A professional did a study on the Cana Island Lighthouse to see what needed to be fixed. The study was done to make it easier to go to the State Historical Society to get the repairs approved. He stated that the lighthouse currently is not on the registry of historic places. He thinks that is better because this way they are not limited on how to restore the grounds. However, in order for the lighthouse to receive grants they may need to establish a "friends" group. Blahnik explained that grants are not usually given to governmental bodies. Blahnik stated she does not want to organize that group. The committee went over the list of repairs and maintenance prepared by Hackbarth and the Blahniks and may cost tens of thousands of dollars. Merkel suggested that the committee look into recreating the light room. Buske suggested going to Eagle Bluff Lighthouse so that the committee members that have not been to Chambers Island can have an idea of what the lighthouse looks like and requested that pictures be taken of the lighthouse.

Fish Creek Park Walking Trail and Signage: Merkel reported that signs are cheap; however, he would like the committee to look into developing new trails and also finishing incomplete trails. Hackbarth stated that a Department of Natural Resources forester will be looking at the Town's Parks within the next week. The forester will give a detailed report on the parks' current status and what the town needs to do to maintain the parks in the future. Hackbarth explained that the DNR forester is going to try to help the town obtain a copy of the Stewardship Grant that the town was given to purchase the Fish Creek Park property.

Public Comment: None at this time.

Adjourn: *It was moved by Merkel and seconded by Buske to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:44.*

Julia Maskell, Secretary