

**VILLAGE OF HARTLAND  
ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND OPEN SPACE  
TASK FORCE MINUTES  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2016  
7:00 PM  
BOARD ROOM  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 210 COTTONWOOD AVE.**

Present: Michelle Bonness, David deCourcy-Bower, Mike Einweck, Tim Hallquist, Courtney Marschalek, David Pride and Carol Zahorik (arrived at 7:02 PM after first vote)

Roll Call

1. Motion (Einweck/Marschalek) to approve the Minutes of the November 3, 2016 Meeting. Carried (6-0).
2. Review of Preliminary Draft Outline of ECOS Report

Chairperson deCourcy-Bower thought it would be helpful to provide a generalized outline of the report that will eventually be given to the Village Board. This may not be what the final version will look like, but rather show the scope of what this task force is trying to achieve.

Background

- Introduction – Environmental Corridors/Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Purpose
- Objective
- Duties

Environmental Corridors

- SEWRPC
- WDNR
- Village of Hartland
- Where are Environmental Corridors Within the Village of Hartland?
  - Village of Hartland Owned (Area, Maps, Parks)
  - Other Public/Environmentally Owned (Ice Age Trail etc.)
  - Privately Owned (Major Owners)

Village Owned Properties

- Village Owned Parks
  - Bark River West
  - Cottonwood Wayside
  - Hartbrook
  - Hartbrook West
  - Penbrook
  - Nottingham
  - Centennial
  - Northwest Park

- Current Conditions
- Opportunity Uses
- Proposed Actions

#### Other Public/Environmentally Owned Properties

- Other Areas
  - Ice Age Wetlands
- Current Conditions
- Opportunity Uses
- Proposed Actions

#### Privately Owned Properties

- Current Conditions
- Opportunities for Property Owners (Generalized)
- Proposed Actions
  - Information – what's in my backyard (example)

There may be other areas that could eventually be added in. At this point the focus is on the eight parks listed above.

The task force preferred the boxed layout of the report example that was put together by Mr. deCourcy-Bower. This could be a paper brochure or a QR code that can be scanned.

Carol Zahorik asked, when property gets sold and there is an environmental corridor on the property, who lets the new owner know what they can and can't do with the property? How do they get the information on the restrictions?

The information about the environmental corridor has to be declared to the buyer by the seller regarding any restrictions on a property. And then the new owner needs to inquire about the restrictions either locally or at the County. An information pamphlet for the purpose of educating a new home owner who has an environmental corridor on their property could be put together and given to a new owner, letting them know that you own it, yet there are restrictions.

### 3. Focused Discussion on Centennial Park and Northwest Park

#### Northwest Park Current Conditions:

- Hard to find
- There is no parking
- Hilly/trails
- Retention Ponds/Infiltration (two ponds as part of Campus Drive construction)
- Reserve for Campus Drive connect for Arrowhead
- Deed Restricted
- Invasives/Buckthorn
- Aspen/Pine
- Undeveloped Trails
- No Environmental Corridor – it qualifies as Open Space

Immediately south of this three acre parcel that was deeded to Arrowhead is a future reserved right-of-way if Arrowhead wants to make a connection out to Campus Drive. Originally all this land was owned by the WISDOT. The Village acquired the land where Lake Country Lutheran High School is and the northwest park portion in order to build Campus Drive. The original intention was that HWY 83 was going to be relocated from Chenequa to this property. When the Village acquired this land, there were three conditions: It could be recreational, institutional by education, or have a roadway on it. It is deed restricted.

Trees identified on the parcel were Red Oak, White Oak, Burr Oak, Black Cherry and Aspen. Thistle was found at the edge of the retention pond. The trails on this property are undeveloped trails, made by people or animals. It is 5.47 acres. There are some steep slopes.

The question was asked, who designates environmental corridors? SEWERPC works with the County to designate the environmental corridors.

#### Opportunities/Actions for Northwest Park

- It was suggested that there be a sign and a parking lot for two or three cars. Do we want people walking around in there? There is a parking lot just south of this property which is Lake Country Lutheran's parking lot. There are bike lanes along Campus Drive. Developing a parking would be doing more harm than good by taking out vegetation. People can also park along the side of the road. It was decided that a parking lot is probably not needed.

The question was raised, what is the definition of an environmental corridor versus open space? SEWRPC has a specific set of criteria that they define as primary environmental corridor, secondary environmental corridor, and then there is isolated natural resource areas.

- The park is undeveloped to this point. We can discuss if we want more for this park.
- Perhaps it could be just a wildlife or bird sanctuary. Many deer use this area. Carol Zahorik walked past the Northwest Park into some open land and saw two signs next to each other that say Hawk Hill and Bird Sanctuary. This area is not in the Village of Hartland.
- This park would be last on the list to be developed/improved
- Perhaps Arrowhead ecology students may want to do a project on this land
- No need to engage with the private sector

#### Centennial Park Current Conditions:

- Developed, active park with restrooms
- Developed approximately 1997
- Knowles-Nelson Stewardship helped provide funds for the restrooms (\$35,000)
- Bark River runs along the west side of it (but it is not visible)
- No developed access to the river
- Frog Pond
- Benches

Property on the other side of the river is owned by the Olson Family, who developed the subdivision. A representative of the family recently came to the Village Board to offer that land to the Village for purchase. He told the Village Board that when the subdivision was developed, Waukesha County did not want individual land owners to border the river. The land was made into an outlot and the County told the Olson family that they would not tax it. But now the

County has put an assessed value on the land of about \$25,000 and now the family has to pay property taxes on it. That is why they wanted to sell it to the Village. It's all floodplain, it has no contiguous access to the Village, it has no contiguous access to Centennial Park, and probably the only people who use it are the Town of Merton properties that abut it. The land is about 6.4 acres. You could put a bridge over the river, but that would cost around \$100,000. A lot of the trees that have fallen into the river are on that Town of Merton side. It is part of the environmental corridor. You would have to contact the DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers to build the bridge and it might cost \$200,000 because they may say you have to span the whole floodplain.

- Invasive species – Buckthorn and Mexican Bamboo/Japanese Knot Weed
- Mike Einweck was told that when the park was developed they planned the buffer between the active park and the river.

#### Opportunities/Actions

- Access to the Bark River/large parking lot for trail head for canoeing the Bark River
- The river would need to be cleared for this purpose
- Clear the invasives and in their place plant grasses/wetland grasses. Courtney Marschalek has researched the berries from the buckthorn and they are a food source for the birds for the winter.
- Improve the view from the river banks, perhaps just in front the benches. There would still need to be some plantings to help with erosion.
- Clean up trash
- Perhaps the frog pond near the playground could be made more useable. There is a path that goes straight to the frog pond, and there is one that goes around the frog pond. These paths could be made wider. There are tradeoffs for this. How would this impact the frogs and do we want children who may not be with an adult near the water?
- We may want to treat the frog pond as an Isolated Natural Resource.

It has been observed that people at Nixon Pond take wildlife from the pond with nets, play with it and then leave it on the shore to die. We may be able to avoid that scenario here if the frog pond stays an Isolated Natural Resource.

There was discussion on the use of the Centennial soccer field and football field. It was mentioned that there is interest in making the football field and soccer field artificial turf, which would cost about a half million dollars for each field. The Village would not be paying for that. The benefit of artificial turf is that you can play on it in all kinds of weather.

Discussions for the next meeting will be Bark River and Greenway from South of Centennial to Palmer's Steak House.

The next ECOS meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 7:00 PM, due to member's conflicts.

#### 4. Adjourn

Motion (Zahorik/Einweck) to adjourn. Carried (7-0). Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM

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By Recording Secretary,

Lynn Meyer  
Deputy Clerk