

**VILLAGE OF HARTLAND  
ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND OPEN SPACE  
TASK FORCE MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017  
7:00 PM  
BOARD ROOM  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 210 COTTONWOOD AVE.**

Present: Michelle Bonness, Mike Einweck, Tim Hallquist, Courtney Marschalek, David Pride and Carol Zahorik. Absent: David deCourcy-Bower.

Roll Call

Seeing that Chairperson deCourcy-Bower was absent, a Chairperson Pro-Tem was appointed.

Motion (Bonness/Zahorik) to appoint Tim Hallquist as Chairperson Pro-Tem. Carried (6-0).

1. Motion (Zahorik/Marschalek) to approve the Minutes of the December 1, 2016 Meeting. Carried (6-0).
2. Focused Discussion on Bark River Park and Greenway between Centennial Park and Palmer's Steakhouse

Bark River Park

Observations of the pathways:

- There is a great path and a nice bridge.
- There is a bike rack.
- The segment from Palmer's to Lawn Street is fairly open.
- The Riverwalk developer will be adding a new bridge over the Bark River near the apartment development. After it is built, it will be dedicated to the Village of Hartland.
- There is a mulched auxiliary path off the paved path from Lawn Street to Highway 16. Since it is in the flood plain, it is very hard to maintain.
- There is a hand railing that needs repair south of Lawn Street. There is a flagstone wall on the west side of the Bark River down from the three culverts. The DPW is aware of that and is scheduled to repair it. It's more extensive than minor repair work.
- The blacktop is in good condition.
- There are a number of trees that are in a dying state.
- The benches are in good shape. Many people use the benches.

Many years ago, there were informational signs that people could stop and read on the path near the municipal parking lot. Over the years they aged, were in a state of disrepair and were removed. Perhaps the Commission would care to discuss adding informational signs as a project. It was suggested that this would be a good project for Hartland North students. The signs could contain information on the area plants and animals. There are similar signs at the Hartland South nature area.

The signs at the southeast side of the library are very nice. Ms. Marschalek noted that she and her husband helped the Hartland fourth graders make those signs.

It was mentioned that there are some key benches in Hartbrook Park that are tipping quite badly. These benches were identified in a past meeting during discussion of Hartbrook Park. They will need to be moved farther away from the river to fix the issue.

Other observations:

- Garlic mustard is present.
- There are few cedars. It was suggested to plant more in the future. Mike Einweck will research if the area has proper soil for planting this species. The Village would appreciate if there is a volunteer group that would help out taking care of the trees.
- Clean up what is there.
- The commission liked the idea of the informational signs.

Operations/Actions:

- Clean Up Bark River for kayaking through the Village, perhaps ending at HWY 83. Ms. Marschalek mentioned that she has tried to tube down the Bark River, however, it is impossible to pass through at Palmer's Steak House. It's very rocky and shallow. In the summer there are large snapping turtles in that area. Mike Einweck stated that the task force can discuss the navigation of the Bark River when the Cottonwood Wayside is discussed.
- There was discussion regarding the Waukesha County Land Conservancy area of the Bark River (west of Cottonwood Avenue between Cardinal Lane and Lindenwood), possibly identifying it as a part of the Bark River that could be passable for kayaking.
- Mike Einweck explained the sign that Ms. Zahorik noticed, "Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant", designates that funds for improving this area came from that DNR grant.
- The task force liked the idea of small community gardens where businesses or residents do the planting and upkeep.
- Village partnerships with Hartland North, local businesses and Riverwalk Apartment residents is a good idea.
- It was noted that there is a "no dogs allowed" portion of the path between the north side of Hartbrook Park up to the access path that comes off of Rae Drive. This is private property and the Village only has an easement crossing that area. On public land, dogs are allowed with a six foot leash.

Greenway Path – Centennial to Hartbrook

- Great path – not maintained in the winter.
- The boardwalk is slippery (made from ironwood that lasts a long time).
- There is an existing sign posted indicating "slippery when wet".
- There are large piles of brush next to the river on the north end (probably left by the adjacent homeowners).
- Work with the neighbors and get a better relationship with them.

Cottonwood Wayside and Nottingham Park will be discussed at the next meeting.

There were a number of dead trees in Nottingham Park and because that area is so dense, the Village hired a contractor to cut the trees and lay them down. The expense of trying to remove all the dead wood would be cost prohibitive. When the task force members are in the area, they may notice the cut trees.

At Cottonwood Wayside, start where the shelter is on Cottonwood Avenue, go down the hill, proceed westerly. At a fork where there is a wooden bench is the limit of Village land. After that is the Ice Age Trail Alliance, and after that the Waukesha County Land Conservancy.

Mr. Pride mentioned that the Hartridge Homeowners Association did a good job with resurfacing the pathways, crack filling and cleaning up some areas.

Next meeting is February 2, 2017.

### **3. Adjourn**

Motion (Marshalek/Bonness) to adjourn. Carried (6-0). Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Recording Secretary,

Lynn Meyer  
Deputy Clerk