

## Joint Public Works/Parks Development Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 20, 2016  
5:00 p.m.

Public Works Committee Members Present: Fred La Rosa, Steve Fritz, Al Tessmann  
Public Works Committee Members Excused: Orv Damrau

Parks Development Committee Members Present: Steve Fritz, Fred La Rosa, Gary Portzen, Mike McGinley, Kraig Brooks  
Parks Development Committee Members Excused: Jerry Krueger, Mike Helmrick

Others Present: Tom Davies, Dan Mahoney, Karen Swanson, Bill Konkol, Roy Hopfensperger, Debbie Sniadajewski, Andrew Timm, Anton Anday, Lyle Eiden

1. Mr. Fritz called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN – LITTLE PLOVER RIVER PARK AND VILLAGE OWNED PROPERTY IN INDUSTRIAL PARK

Mr. Mahoney explained that the Boston School Forest went through a forest management project in 2015 and the plan is to proceed with the Little Plover River Park and Village owned Industrial Park property. The Portage County Forester has put a plan together for the areas.

Lyle Eiden, Portage County Forester, explained that he walked the properties and created plans with the health of the woods in mind. He stated that different timber types require different management plans. Some of the issues that he ran into include taller trees holding back the regeneration of new trees, oak wilt, and the decaying trees with branches falling off creating a safety issue. He stated that the Little Plover River park is a wood setting but also a park. Mr. Eiden discussed the forest fire danger, even with a low level fire, due to the dead and downed material.

He stated that after the reforestation of both areas, there will be some open areas, but the intent is not to clear cut everything. They will be concentrating on the jack pines and oak wilt stricken trees. Mr. Eiden used the Boston School Forest area as an example of how reforestation works.

Mr. Fritz discussed the thinning process and questioned the effects of wind on the trees. Mr. Eiden concurred that thinning the woods does allow wind to flow through but it is not known if there is more of a chance of falling trees due to the wind.

Mr. Portzen questioned who marks the trees and the timeline for the reforestation. Mr. Eiden stated the he and his staff will mark the trees. He stated that they would mark the trees in the winter but it depends on when the logger is available. He would like to hold off on the Industrial Park property and take a UWSP class out to teach them about reforestation and how to mark trees.

Mr. Hopfensperger stated that they would like to have the process completed before April 1<sup>st</sup>, but if that's not possible, it would have to wait until this fall or next winter.

Ted Kay, 2100 Birch Dr., stated that he owns the pie shaped piece at the northeast corner of the park. He explained that he has been involved with managing the trees on his own property and questioned if the forester could mark trees on his own property so he can contribute to the park plan. Mr. Eiden stated that, yes, he could.

Mr. Fritz questioned the red pine thinning in 2022 according to the plan. Mr. Eiden stated that the thinning cycle typically occurs every ten years.

- ✓ **RECOMMENDATION TO VILLAGE BOARD: Mr. Tessmann moved to approve the Forest Stewardship Management plans for the Little Plover River Park and the Village owned property in the Industrial Park as presented. Mr. La Rosa seconded the motion.**

Mr. Anday questioned the invasive species treatment, i.e. would it be postponed or is there a plan in place. Mr. Eiden stated that they prefer to conduct the treatment before the logging, but in this case treatment will probably occur after logging. Chemicals are typically used to kill the root system but they could be hand pulled as well.

Mr. Mahoney clarified that the plan is to log this winter, and if not able to, this fall or next winter. Mr. Eiden stated that they will hold off marking trees until it's known when the logger can come in.

**Motion carried.**

3. Mr. Fritz suggests holding an annual Parks Development Committee meeting or meeting semi-annually. Mr. Mahoney stated that there will likely be more than one meeting this year due to numerous upcoming projects.

Mr. Fritz questioned the status of the creation of the 501(c)3. Mr. Mahoney discussed the creation of a 501(c)3 under the umbrella of Celebrate Plover and a second one being created by the Potato and Vegetable Growers Association for the Little Plover River Conservancy area.

Mr. Mahoney updated the committees on the room tax law changes.

4. Mr. La Rosa moved to adjourn at 5:38 p.m. Mr. Tessmann seconded and the motion carried.

---

Karen Swanson, Village Clerk