June 20, 2024

Attendees: Ron Stancliff, Jerry Throne, Kari Anderson, Jim Pease, Pamela Stanyon, Sandra Zebal, Jess Zehngut, Brent Teillon
Members Absent: Dave Stevens
Guests: Hilary Warner, Judy

Meeting opened at Town Hall at 6:30
The May meeting minutes were approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report
There was no Treasurers Report this month.

New Business
1. Potash Brook Buffer-Jess thinks we should pursue a buffer on Potash Brook. Several years ago Ron researched the properties on the brook. A discussion continued on the brook; we could consider buying a protective easement along the brook. Maybe we should talk to the PC? Jerry remembered that in order to legally regulate a buffer the stream would have to be officially named. This could be in a legal document or on a map Jim added. The benefits of a buffer were discussed, including temperature, wildlife and erosion values. An easement might be difficult to enforce against violations. The stream should be formally named by the PC.

2. Zoom Training-Pam and Jess discussed being able to run Zoom after the new law's (Act 133) requirement was discussed. It is effective July 1. Also after July 1 Zoom will be revised with a newer version called Civic Clerk, so there will need to be a training session. Or the Town might be able to pay someone to administer Zoom. Judy came on Zoom and gave a short discussion on the Civic Clerk.

3. Town Forest Work Day-the next work day will be Saturday, July 6. Meet at the new parking lot at 9am on Bryant Pond Road. We will work on the Northeast Trail. Bryant Pond is visible from the trail in the winter. Bring trail tools. Also the Walton Bridge will be closed so you will have to access Mud City Loop from Cote Hill Rd.
4. Watering Schedule for Crab Tree at Noyes House-is apparently taken care of.

5. Other-Jerry went to the SB hearing about the zoning changes. One concern was the increase from 2 to 3 acre minimum lot size in the Rural Residential District. If we are in agreement that this change would be beneficial to the Town we should send a letter to the SB. Brent made the motion that the MCC supports the zoning change in the Rural Residential District. Jerry will draft the letter. The motion passed unanimously. Jim mentioned that there will be a June 27 DRB hearing on the proposed MSI Industrial Park at the airport,

Old Business

1. Green Up-Brents will send out the final GreenUp numbers via email.
2. Duhamel Property-Ron has talked with Fran about fall planting and the percentage of planted trees that will be lost. He has also transplanted from his land about 70 trees.

Also there is a Wisconsin nursery that has white pine plugs which would grow well in the pit for about $1/tree plug. $450 could plant about 4.5 acres of the pit. We should do a tree planting project during the Spring of 2025. Kari and Pam will look at grant opportunities that would be available this year. Some grants have a January 2025 deadline.

3. Oxbow Park-Jerry said that the planting has been postponed until September.
4. Window Display-the windows look great but may have to be removed around July 4
5. Questionnaire-The discussion was continued continued from May. Ron handed out examples of a past questionnaire. We could mail out a questionnaire with tax bills. The new Town Manager agreed we should develop a new questionnaire.

Member Reports

Ron reported that Kendra Collins maybe able to give a presentation on the American Chestnut tree later this year.

Ron, Jim and Pam attended the Urban Tree Canopy Conference at VTech in Randolph. There is over 1.6 million dollars available this year in urban tree canopy grants. The tree planting and pruning workshops were interesting and helpful.

The large Sycamore tree planted at the Noyes House apparently has a lot of history associated with it. It came from a field at the Battle of Gettysburg, Ron Terrill planted it around WW II. MCC should investigate installing signage at the Noyes House discussing the tree. The large Black Ash on the conserved Koper property that was discovered 30-40 years ago was not found during the recent walk on the property.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectively submitted,
Jim Pease, Secretary