

**VILLAGE OF HARTLAND  
ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND OPEN SPACE  
TASK FORCE MINUTES  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017  
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.

Roll Call

1. Motion (Hallquist/Einweck) to approve the Minutes of the January 4, 2017 Meeting. Carried (6-0-1). deCourcy-Bower abstained.
2. Focused Discussion on Cottonwood Wayside and Nottingham Park

In the task force packets, Mike Einweck included the report and site assessment for the restoration for the Hartland Marsh-Bark River Preserve, which includes the Cottonwood Wayside. This is a collaboration between the Village of Hartland, the Ice Age Trail and the Waukesha Land Conservancy. Also included is a timeline of the various improvements that have been happening and will continue to happen. Some of the task force members commented that reading this made them aware that this is a very time consuming and expensive project.

It was mentioned how much this area has been cleared out from five or ten years ago. It just needs maintenance.

The trail that goes to the river is not on the Cottonwood Wayside trailhead map. People who look at that map won't know that the trail is there. Ms. Zahorik felt it should be added to the sign. That piece of land is now owned by the Waukesha Land Conservancy and the path was added at a later date than the original Ice Age Trail paths. There are some nice benches in that area.

The question was asked why the restoration times have been delayed and who is paying for that project. Mike Einweck stated that the Village gave \$3,000 and is looking to get funds from the Ice Age Trail and the Waukesha Land Conservancy.

Ms. Marschalek was concerned about the planned use of chemicals in the area. It was noted that there are many trees that have just fallen over.

Mr. Pride was concerned about a large tree that had fallen. When you walk into the path, it's about 100 feet from the top of the trail. (Note: Public Works will remove it). There is also some rubbish in the area.

Ms. Zahorik suggested a path to the retention pond.

It is hoped that the chimney swift roost will be used by the chimney swifts as time goes on.

Bee balm and oat grass are growing in the area.

There is a park shelter at Cottonwood wayside.

The sign has the Village of Hartland name on it.

The parking lot pavement has cracks.

There is a bench on the path for sitting.

There is a pedestrian pathway from River Reserve Subdivision that is signed as a crosswalk and links the path to a residential area.

There are two outfalls and it was noticed that there is some erosion.

There are two owl houses, but one came down with a fallen tree.

The copper covers on the bridge posts are missing.

### **Actions**

There used to be more posts describing the type of trees. There is only one left – the Burr Oak post. It would be nice to have signage consistency across the parks.

In the past there were some Arrowhead students and Hartland South students who may have done the project with the identifying posts or other things. It would be nice to have a continuing presence of those schools. Unfortunately, it's hard to keep those types of things from being vandalized.

The Village has an Ice Age Trail Alliance Committee. Are they working with the Ice Age Trail, the Waukesha Land Conservancy and perhaps the three industrial park property owners?

There is buckthorn on the private property lines of the three industrial park properties. They wanted to have thick screening at their property lines. On the western side of this area there is a strip of land owned by private owners on top of the hill.

For the burn, fire breaks will need to be created to make sure that the fire does not take out the private property, which is owned by PDC (the Maslowski family).

Perhaps the people who work in the industrial park would be interested in volunteering to maintain the area. The task force should reach out to them.

### **Areas of Improvement**

The question was raised on how to volunteer for the burn. Mike Einweck suggested getting in touch with the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

The \$3,000 is seed money to help out this project. There are other funds that need to come in to continue this restoration plan.

Ms. Bonness thought that there is work that the contractor is doing that volunteers could easily do. (Eliminating garlic mustard, going after the re-sprouts, etc.) Volunteers can handle herbicides if there is a trained person on site. Ms. Bonness has that license.

The Village funded the forestry mower through the DNR. However, if not treated after that cutting, buckthorn grows back. The burn will help with the tiny plants, but it will not control the trees/bushes. It doesn't kill the root system – just little seedlings.

David deCourcy-Bower asked if there has been any discussion about connecting across the river (perhaps on the Waukesha Conservancy land). Mike Einweck has had someone from the Waukesha Land Conservancy reach out to him about coordinating efforts, however, they have not yet had a chance to meet.

There was discussion about not placing so many trails covering every part of the land, but leaving some untouched areas.

### **Recommendations for Village-owned land**

A recommendation came from someone who uses the area quite often. The bulletin board at the beginning of the trail could be used to explain what is going on during the different steps of the restoration -- why the trees are being taken down (old, invasive, etc.). On one side of the bulletin Board it talks about the Ice Age Trail Foundation and donating, the other side could have an information pamphlet that can describe what is happening on the restoration efforts.

It was noticed that two volunteers were applying herbicide in some large areas.

Other observations:

- Great parking
- Great shelter
- Established trails
- Relatively good maintenance
- Serving a storm water need

Part of the Village land in the area is used for agriculture. The leaves that are collected in the Village during leaf collection in the fall are spread on the field and tilled in to add nutrients to the soil. The farmer across HWY 83 rents the field. It helps the farmer and it helps the Village. If left fallow, the Village would have to deal with the weeds that would crop up.

Ms. Bonness suggested that if the farmer ever decides not to plant, the Village should plant and turn the area into a wetland.

The Park System has a lot of user groups, one being baseball. The Village was approached about putting a couple of baseball fields there. The user group would rent the land, build the fields at no cost to the Village and put their equipment on it. If they finish using the land, they would take their equipment and the Village would convert it to another type of use.

Another use for this area could be a future Community Center. However, there is no sidewalk along Cottonwood Avenue and you can't put a sidewalk in there because of the DNR rules. It's a wetland that requires a three to one restoration. For example, if you take up an acre to put in a sidewalk or boardwalk, you have to replace that with three acres of wetlands.

Some members in the task force would lean toward making this area a prairie rather than baseball fields.

The Park Board would like to see any recommendations that this task force has before going to the Village Board for approval.

### **Nottingham Park**

Mike Einweck described the area that is Nottingham Park. There is the main area, with a spoke that is the driveway to the water tower, a pathway that comes out to E. Imperial, and a spoke that comes out to Wexford Way. There are three points of access to the park. It's mainly developed on the southern portion where the Village mows. The northern triangle is undeveloped woodlands. The wide paths that are new are maintained by the Village. The remainder are maintained by the Hartridge Homeowner's Association.

There is no identification that this is a park or that it is called Nottingham Park.

There is the water tower and a hut for T-Mobile for their antennas on top of the water tower.

### **Actions**

It was suggested that the neighborhood homeowners should maintain and/or make improvements to this park, since it is small and serves a relatively small population. If the northern triangle would be cleared of invasive species, there would be a loss of privacy. Most likely the neighbors would not like the idea of having a clear view of other homes behind theirs. Perhaps just a portion of areas around the significant oak trees could be cleared.

The key seems to be the need for a motivated group of volunteers. The task force was not optimistic of finding volunteers from the neighborhood.

The restoration plan was done by a consultant. The task force has \$10,000. Once our efforts are concentrated and it is decided what the most important things are to recommend to the Board, some of those funds could be used to develop a report (it's probably going to be a three to four month lead time for a report to be prepared). The task force is almost done looking at these initial parks.

### 3. Next Area Focus

Maple Wayside (owned by Ice Age Trail) and E. of Four Winds Subdivision (owned by Waukesha County) These are the last two publicly owned environmental corridors in the Village.

Perhaps after the next meeting the task force could discuss some of the private environmental corridors. There are restrictions and many people don't know what they are. There might be discussion regarding how to let people know what the restrictions are for a private environmental corridor.

Mike Einweck will bring a map to the next meeting showing the privately held environmental corridor lands so that it can be used as a talking point.

### 4. Adjourn

Motion (Marschalek/Hallquist) to adjourn. Carried (7-0). Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Recording Secretary, Lynn Meyer, Deputy Clerk