

**VILLAGE OF HARTLAND  
ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND OPEN SPACE  
TASK FORCE MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017  
7:00 PM  
BOARD ROOM  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 210 COTTONWOOD AVE.**

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

Roll Call

1. Consideration of approval of Minutes of the February 2, 2017 Meeting

Motion (Bonness/Zahorik) to approve the Minutes of February 2, 2017.

Discussion: It was clarified that the Park Board would like to see any recommendations of the ECOS Task Force before the items go to the Village Board for approval. The Park Board will not be giving approvals on the items. The Task Force can extend their work past a one-year time frame, if needed.

Motion Carried (5-0).

David deCourcy-Bower did pull together the outline of the report. The task force has already gone through the Village-owned properties, this month they are going to go through two of the other environmental properties. Then the actual reporting part will be considered, with some thought given to the privately owned properties.

David Pride recommended that the ECOS Task Force get together with the Ice Age Trail Committee and the Waukesha County Land Conservancy to discuss the recommendations from each group.

Mike Einweck mentioned that he does have an upcoming meeting with the Waukesha County Land Conservancy and at that time he would report to them the task force findings.

Mr. Einweck will be meeting with an Eagle Scout candidate who is interested in focusing on improving the Cottonwood Wayside. Suggestions given to the scout were adding benches, re-chipping the trail that comes down from the shelter, adding the trail on the trailhead sign, making informational brochures about the chimney swifts chimney and why it is important to preserve the oak savannah.

Carol Zahorik said that the six fence posts on the bridge with the fence in the Cottonwood Wayside has only two caps, four are missing. Perhaps the Eagle Scout project could also add the four caps that are missing. Another suggestion was to remove the two remaining post caps.

The tree that was down near the path at the Cottonwood Wayside has been moved away by DPW workers.

2. Focused Discussion on Maple Wayside and County Land Adjacent to Four Winds

**Maple Wayside**

The Maple Wayside is owned by the Ice Age Trail Alliance. They have an easement through the River Reserve Outlot for the trail. (Similar to the Village's easement through River Meadows that was discussed in the past).

The handicap access needs work. The brass sign is tarnished. The deck is starting to deteriorate. It needs to be bleached and a preservatives applied. There are buckthorn along the top of the hill (moraine). Mike Einweck reminded the task force that that this area is owned by the Ice Age Trail Alliance. The Village does not maintain any of the Maple Wayside deck, hill or pathways to Cottonwood Avenue. The parking lot also belongs to the Ice Age Trail.

Carol Zahorik mentioned that when she was on top of the hill, there was still ice in the marsh. There were two Sand Hill cranes there.

When you walk on the walkway along Maple Avenue, there is no crosswalk to the Maple Wayside parking lot.

Maple Avenue, south of Cardinal Lane, is a County highway. The Village maintains the crosswalk at Cardinal Lane and Maple Avenue. A crosswalk at the Maple Wayside and Hartwood Lane would need to be installed by Waukesha County.

The hill overlook is beautiful. There is low growing buckthorn and some beautiful oak trees. A few more benches would be nice. There are some black walnut trees and a bat house. There is an owl's nest in a black walnut tree.

The majority of the trail is on the outlot owned by the landowners of the River Reserve Subdivision. It's an easement, but the homeowners don't maintain the trail.

A bike rack was suggested for Maple Wayside.

The boardwalk needs some repairs. Most of the boardwalk is on Ice Age Trail property, a small piece might be on the River Reserve Outlot, but is still maintained by the Ice Age Trail. In the past Mike Einweck did notify them of repairs that were needed on the boardwalk and the Ice Age Trail Alliance did come out and do the repairs.

As you come into the parking lot, the hillside at the right was cleared of invasive species by a number of volunteer groups. However, the roots may not have been treated and the buckthorn is coming back. Volunteer efforts need to be thorough with the work they do. A guide would be helpful in that respect. Perhaps instructions could be put together for different projects.

Michelle Bonness suggested that at the end, we need an entity where you have one person (an ecologist type) that can monitor what's going on, someone who is in charge of cultivating volunteers, another person who works with the neighborhoods and another with the brochures. You need three people. People need to have ownership, otherwise things will not get done. It's a huge job. We have to think long term – decades beyond this task force.

The task force's job is to get down on paper a plan that states here is what we see, here are some actions that can be taken and here is how it can happen. Over the next few months the task force will designate some specific pieces we want to see developed and discuss the best way to spend the \$10,000 in the budget. It doesn't have to be done right away and all at once. It is seed money to get other people involved and go from there.

David Pride thought that the buckthorn on the hill is like a fence. It may not be bad. Mike Einweck asked if it was the same at Penbrook Park. The residents there probably like it the way it is. We need to be consistent on the handling of buckthorn.

**Actions for Maple Wayside:**

- The Boardwalk needs repaired.
- Take away the buckthorn around the big trees.
- Communicate with the Ice Age Trail Alliance to see what their plan might be. Have them provide the Village with their plan to maintain that area.
- Maintenance on the handicap deck overlook.
- Clean up the sign.
- Additional benches on the moraine overlook.
- Information brochures or signs.
- A resource is needed that lists the different environmental corridors in the Village and name the unique features of each area. For example, Maple Wayside has the moraine and expand on that.

Courtney Marschalek helped the students put a sign by the library regarding a moraine. Perhaps something could be added to that sign to direct people to the moraine at Maple Wayside.

### **Four Winds East**

- Nice wide trail.
- Four benches at the end of the trail.
- Two very large Oaks.
- The subdivision has two large ponds for storm water.
- Red Wing Black Birds were seen.
- Prairie grass.
- The path is mainly used by people in the subdivision. The general public doesn't know it's there and that it extends along the river.
- It looked like property owners had planted some trees on County land.
- The county does not maintain any access to the river in that stretch. Vegetation is very thick.
- Subdivision residents are mowing the grass into the Waukesha Land Conservancy to extend their yards.
- There is a lot of garbage that needs to be picked up along HWY K and about 100 yards in.
- There is a 200-300 pound bale of barbed wire rolled in a coil by the river and there is a deer hunting stand. (Town of Merton land)
- The savannah is a potential fire hazard.
- The trails are well kept.

### **Actions**

- In the long term, connectivity to the north.
- Carol Zahorik mentioned that it does connect to the Ice Age Trail.
- Put together a volunteer group from the Four Winds Homeowners to maintain the trail.
- Education.
- Information outreach to the general public (a sign, maps, websites) to try to get more people to use the trail. There is no sign that says the trail continues when you cross HWY K from Centennial Park.
- Mike Einweck has called Waukesha County in the past about noxious weeds on the path, mainly Canadian Thistle. The County needs to keep up with invasive weed maintenance.
- Prairie possibility.
- Clean up HWY K.

Mike Einweck suggested that for the next meeting, David deCourcy-Bower should share what he has so far on the parks, give the write up to Deputy Clerk Meyer, she can send it out to all the members, we can go through the environmental corridors and sketch some ideas to start putting together the report and utilize another layer on the map.

3. Discussion of the Environmental Corridor Maps for the Village of Hartland

Mike Einweck brought attention to the maps he included in the task force packet. It would be nice to have an information box layer on GIS when you click on the area of the map. Ruekert-Mielke maintains our data base for GIS. We would have to prepare some information and give it to them to add. Perhaps once the report is done, when people click on that part of the map, the corresponding page of the ECOS report could show up.

The task force members should come to next month's meeting prepared with ideas for what kind of guidance/information we could provide to existing private property owners that have environmental corridor as part of their land either as part of a subdivision or as part of a private lot. We can't control it, but we could provide some information for the homeowners to help them understand what the environmental corridor is.

Michelle Bonness suggested that we could possibly find a municipality who has already done something similar and we could get some ideas from them.

The Ice Age Trail does cross HWY KE and a portion of it is in the Village of Hartland.

Mike Einweck stated that it is a very difficult piece of property (by Foxwood Lane). The trail goes into the City of Delafield to HWY 83. That property was going to be a platted subdivision. The Town of Delafield subdivision to the south of this property didn't want it. There was a lawsuit, there was an impasse and then a settlement. The owners of the Township subdivision are supposed to maintain it.

There are two angles to private ownership: One is existing developed private property owners and the other is those that are undeveloped property that have an environmental corridor (The Foxwood area is an environmental corridor because of the slope). A similar area is the North Forty land that has an environmental area and will be coming into the Village to be developed. What guidance would this task force see for those areas?

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Also, for those who were not initially involved at the beginning of a subdivision development, how do new residents get the information regarding the environmental corridor and what they should be doing with the land?

4. Adjourn

Motion (Bonness/Einweck) to adjourn. Carried (5-0). Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Recording Secretary,

Lynn Meyer  
Deputy Clerk