

ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND OPEN SPACE  
TASK FORCE MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2016  
7:00 PM  
BOARD ROOM  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 210 COTTONWOOD AVE

Roll Call – David Cox, Village Administrator and Coordinator of the Task Force started the meeting.

**1. Introduction of ECOS Task Force Members**

David de-Courcy-Bower currently serves on the Village Joint Architectural Board/Plan Commission. His background is environmental engineering consultant. Sustainability and environmental issues are important to him and are part of what he does for his livelihood. He lives in the Village of Hartland on E. Capitol Drive.

David Pride has lived on Penbrook Way since 2002. He was a property manager in the city for many years.

Carol Zahorik has lived in the Village 30 years. She lives on Glenowen Drive and there is a conservancy behind her house. She is interested in nature and is a retired Milwaukee Public School teacher.

Mike Einweck is the Director of Public Works for the Village of Hartland and has worked here for 10 years. He has a civil and environmental engineering degree.

Tim Hallquist is Chairman of the Park Board and has been on that board for 21 years. He has lived in Hartland almost 30 years. He is also on the Joint Architectural Board/Plan Commission. He lives in the Hartridge Subdivision on Hartwood Lane.

Courtney Marschalek lives on Nixon Avenue. Her background is education and environmental education. Primarily she is a mom, but she volunteers at Hartland North Elementary School. She and her husband got the trail system going in the Hartland North woods.

Michelle Bonness lives just east of the Village in a house that backs up to a 60 acre conservancy. For the past 10 years, she and her neighbor have been restoring that. She loves doing the work and she has volunteered with the DNR in the Southern Kettle Moraine on every second Saturday for the past four or five years. She has learned a lot through them.

**2. Selection of Chairperson**

The main goal of the Chairperson is to shepherd the meetings. Mike Einweck will be the primary staff person. He will get agendas together and see that proper notice is made. It is a public meeting and the State requirements for that will need to be met.

David deCourcy-Bower volunteered to be the chairperson. All were in favor.

### **3. Review of Resolution and purpose of Task Force**

David Cox explained to the Task Force what the primary focus will be.

Paul Mozina came to the Village Board last winter and he was encouraging the Village Board to take on a more active role in the various open spaces in the Village. He was particularly interested in Penbrook Park and the significant parts of that park that have been allowed to go wild. He asked questions on how we manage our properties. Mr. Mozina encouraged the Village to more actively maintain the more passive areas of the parks. The Village Board needed more information on what that would mean to the Village. The Village has dozens if not hundreds of acres of land that it owns. The goal was to create a group of individuals who are willing to come together and evaluate the Villages open spaces, particularly ones that are owned by the Village, and try to identify insufficiencies or things that need to change and also try to identify a path to that change for the Village Board. Also, to try and identify what some of those costs might be so that the Village has the information for budgeting when it comes time to change the way we handle things.

There will be funds available if there needs to be assistance from the outside. We'll try and identify what that means, but there can be funds available.

David Cox reviewed the resolution which was used to create the task force. The goal is to be finished with the work within one year. If it takes less time that's great, if more time is needed, that can be worked out as well. The intent is to submit a written document/management plan to the Village Board that recommends the path to pursue. Ideally some targets and some sort of budget will be documented by the task force. It will then go to the staff to figure out how to work in the plan. We are looking for concise descriptions of what's going on, not a huge document. Photos may be included. We'll also want to know what the end product will look like.

There are two parts to this task – a heavy focus on Village-owned property and a secondary focus on non-village property, for example the marsh owned by the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

Carol Zahorik asked about her property. She owns 3 acres at the end of Glenowen Drive, much of it is conservancy. Her neighbor cut down trees and planted lawn grass in the conservancy so he can mow it. There are no rules for that. There should be some community education aspect. He owns the land, but he didn't know. Are there any consequences? Her house was built in 1952. The land didn't become a conservancy until the area behind her lot was developed off of Tenny Avenue. Half of her land is in the environmental corridor.

That should be a point of discussion regarding public land being one method of managing and there is private land in the conservancy areas. What are the existing ordinances? In the Comprehensive Plan there are guidelines that establish what an environmental corridor is.

The public education process is key in letting people know about what an environmental corridor is. The building inspector currently enforces the rules.

#### **4. Review of Municipal-owned Property and Various Resource Material**

Dave Cox distributed copies of the Villages Outdoor Recreation Plan, which is updated every five years. It is a description primarily on active use. It's a basic description of the parks, and it also gives the Village eligibility for grants. The Centennial Park restroom project was given a \$45,000 grant. The northwest park on Campus Drive (a passive park) was mentioned. Some on the task force were not familiar with it.

Links to Sections 3 and 4 of the Villages Comprehensive Land Use Plan were sent to the task force. Among other things, the plan details the current condition of the Village and where it intends to go. Section 3 describes the various objectives of the Village. Section 4 relates to cultural history and environmental aspects. There are various maps that identify soils, habitat and other things related to the environment. Let the Village know if you want these in hard copy.

If you are interested in other things, we have many files in boxes that you may have access to. We have information on our water system and water supply if you need it.

DPW Director Einweck pointed out on the Village map the Village-owned properties. He also indicated what areas belong to the Ice Age Trail. It was brought up that Hartland/Lakeside schools have some forest areas near Hartland North and also behind Hartland South.

David deCourcy-Bower stated that there are three overlays on the GIS that would be useful.

- Village of Hartland Lands with Environmental Corridor
- Other Public Lands with Environmental Corridor
- Private Lands with Environmental Corridor

There may be some small areas to tackle that would influence the neighbors to do something similar. The Village will break down the maps into sections and print them.

It was mentioned that some of the newer developments are putting storm water retention facilities underneath their parking lots.

#### **5. Hartland's Water Supply Now and in the Future**

Mr. Pride wants to add water supply and wastewater to the work of the task force. Since he moved here in 2002, water use has greatly increased. We live in a time when we share an aquifer. It is his understanding that this aquifer originates in Canada, but the "big tank" extends from Hartford to Oconomowoc, to Brookfield, to Waukesha, with Hartland in the Middle. Waukesha has some serious problems. Their people have radium going into their bodies. We

may end up with the same problem here unless we understand our environment. The number one thing people want is a safe, economical, affordable water system. Where does the wastewater go and what is done with it? Water is a significant issue and we want to be ahead of the curve. He feels the task force should understand Del-Hart and why tankers fill up with water by the DPW five times a day and water lawns on Lake Nagawicka. 70% of everything our State of Wisconsin residents drink is beneath their feet. It's potable water through municipal wells and private wells. There are 533 waste treatment plants all of which put water into the rivers. We reserve no water in this state. It needs to change. He recommended the book "Let There Be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water Starved World" by Seth Siegel.

Mr. Pride would like to get a hydrologist in the budget. He recommended Ruckert & Mielke.

DPW Director Einweck answered that the consultant Village Engineer is from Ruckert & Mielke. Ruckert & Mielke has done a number of studies of our water system. We have those on file. Five active wells serve the Village. These wells are shallow. The deepest well is 132 feet. When you have a shallow aquifer you get away from the radium issues. A lot of communities can't find shallow water, so they end up drilling 1,500 feet. That's where the radium issues come from – the very deep wells.

Mr. Pride said that he understands that the high end of our aquifer is in Hartford and our aquifer is half empty. Waukesha has those four deep wells that are down to the salts and the uranium. Is this worth paying attention to? He did not think it was sustainable to keep filling up the tanker trucks or have the splash pad water going into the Bark River. We have all these subdivisions and we shouldn't throw our water away.

Mike Einweck stated that we don't want to duplicate existing services with our planning/engineering for new development, we work closely with Del-Hart on water treatment.

Dave Pride asked about what the Village is doing for water conservation?

Mike Einweck stated that there are a number of areas the Village is working towards for water conservation. He will get that information for Mr. Pride and bring it to another meeting. The tanker trucks that are being filled are sold as part of bulk water sales. A lot of the water being sold goes to neighborhood pools.

David Pride asked if staff could bring back to this task force what is being done about sustainability. Look at the demand. Look at Lake Mead and Las Vegas. Water is piped from the lake eighty miles to Las Vegas and 40 years later the lake is dried up. In Peshtigo, there isn't enough water to keep the river up in potato country.

David deCourcy-Bower said that given the fact that the Bark River is an integral part of the environmental corridors, consideration of surface water or retention aspects of how we manage our environmental corridors and the role they play in sustaining clean water in our community is important. The Ice Age wetlands do an outstanding job cleaning up water.

Hartland does have a lot of wetlands – more than most areas. Mr. Pride suggested pumping the splash pad water to Penbrook Park.

David deCourcy-Bower suggested that perhaps at the next meeting the task force could discuss if the water system is part of the scope of what we want to tackle as part of this task force. Or do we want to focus more on the contributions on the environmental corridors to improving the water quality in the Village. Water quality is improved through maintaining and keeping these environmental corridors in good condition so that we don't get erosion runoff.

Mike Einweck stated that the Village is obligated to follow DNR regulations. Whenever you go from green land to paved land, there is increased water runoff that happens on those sites. The Village and its engineers contain the runoffs from those properties and it goes into a wet retention basin, which helps filter out the pollutants. After the pollutants are filtered out, that water overflows to a detention basin, which acts as an infiltration basin. The water that flows on the property gets cleaned and gets put back into the ground. The Village has standards for how much water has to get back into the ground.

Dave Pride said that when 200 moms take their children to the splash pad, and there are 500 children over a period of eight hours, why can't we retain that water and put it in the pond at Penbrook? Why do we need to put it in the river?

Tim Hallquist thought that water is a great topic, but that is not what this task force is about. The Village has done several studies and we don't want to duplicate that. What we are trying to tackle, the green space and the parks, is going to be hard to accomplish by itself.

David deCourcy-Bower stated that the water pipes and waste water treatment is an engineering piece. There are aspects, though, for example, what are folks doing in the vicinity of the environmental corridors to make sure that there is an awareness of private property owners that there is an impact of the runoff from their properties into the environmental corridor. He doesn't think the task force should tackle the whole water system.

The consensus was to stay with the water that affects the environmental corridors and not the entire water system. Our homework for next meeting might be to come up with five bullet points that are important.

Perhaps the task force might take a look at different ideas about the splash pad water and give a recommendation. Mike Einweck likes conservation ideas such as using rain barrels for conserving water. Waukesha County has a very good education program that this committee could use their resources as part of this committee. Mike Einweck could contact Waukesha County to see if they have representatives who might come out and talk with us.

## **6. Discussion of Proposed Plan for Pursuit of Task Force Work**

Tim Hallquist thought that the group should take on the Village properties first, non-Village land second, and education third.

Mike Einweck thought that if we concentrate on the Village lands and come up with plans, then we use that to promote the education aspect for the other public entities and private lands.

David deCourcy-Bower would like the environmental corridor overlay so that he can identify where the Environmental Corridors are. We also need to identify areas where owners of properties are next to each other (i.e. Ice Age Trail, Village land and Waukesha County Land Conservancy). Does it make sense to have three different groups managing essentially the same area? It will help us understand who we need to be talking to about which pieces of land. He would like to receive that soon so that at the next meeting the task force could tackle the lands.

Courtney Marshalek asked if we could we find out about the management plan for the Ice Age Trail and Waukesha County Wetlands.

Dave Cox stated that the three entities are working together in that area where the lands are close together. There is a specific management plan related to the upland portions of the property. There is a plan that has been developed that we are implementing there. The plan is to have a contractor eradicate the buckthorn and garlic mustard, working toward spring to eventually do a burn through the upland portions of the marsh.

The question was asked if we could use the big machine at Penbrook to eradicate the buckthorn there. Mr. Einweck answered that is something that the task force can look at when they are visiting the parks and see if that is something they want to do.

David deCourcy-Bower mentioned that as the task force walks around, look to see where else should we implement a similar type of plan?

Mike Einweck asked the task force to think about volunteer opportunities as they are going through the parks. He always gets a lot of groups contacting him about wanting to do volunteer work in the Village. If they see something might work for a project, let staff know.

The basic idea for the task force is evaluating the green space, as a collective group come up with action plans, prioritize and then get a cost factor.

## **7. Future Meeting Topics and Meeting Schedule**

David deCourcy-Bower asked the group how often do they want to meet? Is monthly enough? We would all want to walk through the parks and open areas soon. Monthly meetings was the consensus. We can change it later if we need to. We will have a month to visit as many areas as we can.

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Thursday, September 1 was chosen as the next meeting date and meeting on the first Thursday of every month thereafter.

Dave Cox said the group will get the sectionalized maps on which we will identify Village-owned parcels.

Mike Einweck will get a substitute for himself for the meeting as he will not be able to attend.

Dave Cox and Mike Einweck will email the overlays and will have an 11" x 17" hard copy available to be picked up by the task force. David deCourcy-Bower requested not to receive a hard copy.

**Adjourn**

Motion (Marschalek/Hallquist) to adjourn. Carried (7-0). Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Recording Secretary

Lynn Meyer  
Deputy Clerk