

Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust
March 18th, 2013 Meeting Minutes
New Richmond High School

Prior to the regular meeting, members of the Board of Directors and Consultant Cheryl Clemens met to discuss plans for the upcoming lecture series "River Talks".

The March meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by President Beth Wood.

Present were: Beth Wood, Paul Mayer, Mike Reiter, Dan Davison, Mike Kelly, Val Hogan, Judy Remington, Shawn Schottler, Rita Lawson and Consultants Cheryl Clemens.

The Treasurer's report and 2013 projected Budget were approved as presented. Dan provided a detailed handout of financial transactions. The Secretary's report was approved as circulated via e-mail.

1. Shawn introduced our newest Board Member Rita Lawson.
2. Cheryl presented a draft of the SPLPT's PowerPoint presentation. A few member photos are needed to complete the full board representation. When finalized it can be used as an introduction to who the trust is and what the trust does in a formal format. Cheryl will send out a draft pdf file for comments.
3. The 2013 SPLPT's lecture series "River Talk" is taking shape. Three sessions are being considered. The first will be general, educational with potential monitoring considered. The second will highlight shoreline ordinances and good practices and the final will focus on easement considerations. The Annual meeting in July may be a venue for this one. The subgroup will meet in April to finalize plans.
4. The New Richmond High School Service Day is scheduled for May 17th. Class groups are available for projects with the SPLPT indicating potential activities for the South Cedar Bay Landing and McMurtrie Preserve to utilize these groups.
5. Cheryl noted that a few items are missing in our property files. We will need to get Title Searches on properties going forward. Title Reports may be sufficient however. A check list of donations will be created. A checklist of purchases and guidelines are available. Cheryl will try to track down some of the needed items.
6. Paul has explored an agreement with the New Richmond Area Community Foundation to store the SPLPT's records at their office at the Community Commons. The agreement has been signed and our filing cabinet will be moved to that location. A listing of people authorized for access will be provided.
7. The full legal description and documentation needs to be recreated and filed for the South Cedar Bay Landing. Cheryl will look into this.
8. Mike Kelly reported on a track of land (39 acres on the NW corner of C and CC) owned by Alice Emerson which might be considered for a conservation easement or donation. Alice will again be contacted with further options explained to her.
9. Val reported on another tract of land where an organic farming conservation easement was being considered. More information is needed on this type of easement with Val following up on this.
10. Mike Kelly reported on possible tree trimming occurring on the McMurtrie Preserve. This issue was resolved to the satisfaction of all parties involved.
11. A possible state pheasant or turkey stamp grant application was considered for oak savannah restoration on McMurtrie Preserve. It was decided not to apply for this grant at this time. More

research is needed. Shawn offered to provide seed for the project if it is moved forward by a private contractor.

12. The lower Apple River survey is being finalized and will be sent out to property owners on the river. More than 500 mailings will be made. It will be sent out in early April following comments. Val reported on a web-based survey which may not be feasible at this time. Mike Kelly has agreed to tabulate the results with help being needed for the mailings.
13. A habitat map has been provided for sites on the Apple River. Strategy development is needed to decide where to go from here. Invasive species eradication and land owner contacts for areas of moderate erosion are possibilities. A portion of the river may be resurvey if time permits. Cheryl provided a handout of this strategy.
14. Cheryl has provided a Trust property map which is very informative and gives perspective on our holdings.
15. Val provided a handout of our website development plans with several options listed. A lengthy discussion ensued. JJ Web Services were explained. The potential website layout was modified and a decision to move forward was made.
16. Judy updated the group on our membership activities over the last year. A handout was provided.
17. Discussion on the Stillwater Bridge mitigation funds that could be available soon was held. More information will be forthcoming to help define when and where these funds might be available. It would be important for the SPLPT to identify prime parcels of land in the area that might be impacted by these funds.

The next meeting will be scheduled for Monday, May 9th, 2013 at the New Richmond High School starting at 4:30 pm.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Mike Reiter, Secretary