

**Village of Egg Harbor**  
**Bird City Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 1, 2017 – 9:00 AM**  
**Paul J. Bertschinger Community Center**  
**7860 STH Hwy 42, Egg Harbor, WI 54209**

**1. Call to order and adopt agenda**

Heller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance were John Heller, Clarence Scherer, Gerry Seroka, Jeff Meyer, Ryan Heise, and Megan Vandermause. Heller moved to approve the agenda, second by Scherer, motion carried.

**2. Open Session**

**3. Committee Member Introductions**

- Heller introduced himself and stated that he has been a birder pretty much all of his life.
- Heller stated that at one point he was involved in a bird study with Cornell College.
- Seroka stated that he worked with the Milwaukee County park system for a number of years and he has 9 bird feeders in his yard.
- Seroka stated that he has an interest in birds.
- Scherer stated that he has bird feeders in his yard.
- Scherer said that the number of birds in his yard has reduced.
- Scherer stated that he has taken a little bit of interest in invasive species after he helped his son who is a Boy Scout leader in Minnesota.
- Scherer stated that he worked with a county representative to remove buckthorn from the Village.
- Heller asked how buckthorn is removed and Scherer reported that buckthorn is cut off and then sprayed with round up.
- Seroka stated that garlic mustard is a biannual that needs to be cut back.
- Seroka said that there are no predators for garlic mustard in this area.
- Seroka stated that painting buckthorn with round up will eventually kill it.
- Meyer said that the Village has put up a few martin houses down by the marina however no martins seem to have utilized the houses yet.
- Meyer stated that martin houses were also put in Village View Park.
- Meyer said that martins have a lot of predators.

**4. Review Tom Prestby's Bird View Park Report & Set Priorities**

- Heller said that in Tom Prestby's report he mentioned that the bird house at the marina needs to be cleaned out.
- Heise went over the recommended objectives for the Ad Hoc Committee which included bringing forward a number of recommendations related to habitat improvements and education to the Parks and Public Works Committee for their consideration and evaluation and establishing an estimated budget and timeline.

- Heise reported that the committee will be following Robert's Rules of Order as well as open meetings law.
- Heise reviewed opportunities with the committee which included assisting with International Migratory Bird Day this summer, identifying, reviewing and assisting with grant opportunities including grant writing, and connecting with existing nature advocacy groups in Door County to leverage existing resources.
- The committee will look into grant opportunities and possible opportunities with local universities.
- Heller stated that in Tom Prestby's report he did not specify whether he saw the birds in Bird View Park or down by the beach.
- Heller said that he thought the committee could replicate what Tom Prestby has done and track birds on the same days as Prestby.
- Heller recommended that the committee make observations.
- Seroka stated that wood duck houses could be put up to help attract them, and Scherer said that this is something that Tom Prestby recommended.
- Heller suggested that the committee spend some time in Bird View Park so that they can better assess the situation.
- Seroka suggested planting some plants in the area that especially attract birds.
- Heller said that Prestby provided a list of plants.
- Heller stated that when the committee goes through the recommendations they need to establish who is going to implement the recommendations, who is going to pay, and who is going to manage them.
- Heller suggested identifying a group of volunteers for birding efforts.
- Heller suggested laying out what kind of plants the committee would like to add to Bird View Park and work on invasive species removal.
- The committee agreed that this should be the committee's first goal.
- Heller asked if these new plants would need to be dug in.
- Meyer stated that the plants should be put in to the east of the trail and there is a lot of space to add plants.
- Scherer stated that the committee will need to determine where the plants will thrive.
- Heller stated that the committee will need to do some research on the plants before making any final decisions.
- Meyer suggested adding some plants over the course of a few years.
- Seroka will make a recommendation as to what plants should be added to Bird View Park.
- Heller stated that the committee can walk the trail and determine where to put the plants.
- Seroka stated that he agrees with looking at the area before determining what needs to be planted.
- Heller stated that the committee's priorities are to become familiar with Bird View Park, identify invasive species, and determine new plants for the area.
- Heller said that the invasive species will need to be removed from both sides of the trail.

- Meyer stated that the Public Works Department was planning on putting some of the new bluebird houses in Bird View Park.
- Seroka said that the bluebird houses could be put anywhere in the Village and that Bird View Park is probably not the best area for bluebirds.
- Seroka stated that a sign could be put up in Bird View Park identifying the birds that may be seen. A tracking station could also be set up in the park so that birders could write down what they saw.
- Heller stated that he likes the idea of erecting a bat house in the parking area by the beach.
- Meyer suggested removing the martin house from the marina and placing it down by the beach.
- Heller asked if this is something that staff should take action on right away and the committee confirmed that they would like to have the martin house moved.
- Heller asked if anyone has looked at any of the attachments on Prestby's report.
- This is something that the committee will work on.
- Meyer asked the committee how many bat houses should be made and Scherer suggested putting one down by the beach.
- Heller stated that he likes the idea of attracting more bats to these areas.
- Heller stated that bird feeders are not a high item on the committee's priority list, but wood duck houses should be constructed.
- Meyer stated that he will need to research how to construct a wood duck house.

#### **5. Discussion International Migratory Bird Day**

- Vandermause stated that the Village holds an International Migratory Bird Day every year as part of the Bird City certification.
- Vandermause said that this is a small celebration held in Harbor View Park on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.
- Vandermause said that the Village will have Paul Reigner give a "Birdie Bus" tour and would like to have a raptor or birds of prey program.
- Vandermause stated that she contacted Open Door Bird Sanctuary to see if they would be interested in putting on a program, but she has not heard back yet.
- There will be a small tent set up in Harbor View Park where volunteers can hand out birding information.

#### **6. Review Open Meetings Law**

- Staff included a Wisconsin Open Meetings Law fact sheet in the committee packet for the committee members to review.

#### **7. Set Regular Meetings Day & Time**

- Vandermause suggested holding regular meetings the third Monday of every month at 8:30 a.m. There will not be an April meeting.
- The committee will hold a special meeting during the beginning of May to walk Bird View Park prior to their regular meeting. This meeting's time and date is to be determined.

**8. Adjourn**

Scherer moved to adjourn, second by Seroka, motion carried.

DRAFT