

Village of Egg Harbor
Bird City Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 15, 2017 – 8:30 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 8:31 a.m. Those in attendance were John Heller, Pam Wegner, Jerry Seroka, Clarence Scherer, Kenton Onsrud, Jeff Meyer, Dan Richmond, and Megan Vandermause.

Heller moved to approve the agenda, second by Scherer, motion carried.

2. Open Session

- Heller wanted to discuss the placement of the blue bird houses.
- Onsurd said that he moved here in 2014 and lives in Apple Ridge.
- Onsurd inherited a decrepit blue bird trail and now has 100 boxes that he checks weekly.
- Onsurd said that he belongs to the state record association and has fledged over 1,700 baby blue birds.
- Onsurd said that the blue bird houses built by the Village were very nice boxes.
- In order to propagate blue birds, they need to be watched closely.
- Onsurd said that the blue bird houses cannot have perches because either sparrows or wrens will take over the houses.
- Onsurd said that the houses cannot be placed near fences because raccoons can get in the houses.
- Onsurd explained that houses should not face south or southwest because of the cold winds.
- The houses need to be carefully placed so after the babies fledge they can fly to a nearby tree.
- Onsurd said that the blue bird houses by the Peg Egan should be turned around so that they face the cherry trees.
- Onsurd said that the blue bird houses should not be placed closer than about 100 feet to one another.
- Onsurd said that he would walk around with Richmond to place the blue bird houses in appropriate places.
- Heller asked if houses should be moved this year or if it is already too late. Onsurd said that houses are not very apt to receive blue birds the first year, but the houses could be moved.
- Onsurd reported that he has about 40 nests in his 100 houses this year.
- Scherer asked if the houses were moved this year if the young birds might pick those houses for next year.
- Meyer asked about the type of poles that should be used for the houses, and Onsurd said that he does not like the poles that the Village has used but he has some poles that the Village could use instead.

- Onsurd said that if he knows that there are raccoons in the area he takes Vaseline and cayenne pepper and rubs it on the poles.
- This keeps the raccoons away because they do not like messy paws so when they try to clean their paws they taste the pepper and do not try to climb the pole again.
- Heller asked how the houses Richmond build open up and Richmond said that there is a door on one of the sides of the houses.
- Seroka asked if the blue birds will come back to different houses after the other birds leave.
- Wegner stated that it would be worth moving some of the houses right now.
- Wegner said that any work the committee does should be documented for the next Bird City application.
- Onsurd said that the houses should be inspected every week.
- Heller asked if the committee would like to get involved in helping Onsurd with his program.
- Onsurd said that it is not difficult to inspect the blue bird houses.
- Onsurd said that wrens are protected and the nests cannot be removed.
- Onsurd will meet with Richmond and Meyer to move the blue bird houses.
- Vandermause stated that she did reach out to Tom Prestby about when he would be available to meet with the committee to review his report.
- Vandermause reported that Tom Prestby is quite busy right now but he is available to meet with the committee at the end of May or beginning of June.

3. Approve March 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Scherer moved to approve the March 1, 2017 meeting minutes with changes, second by Seroka, motion carried.

4. Review International Migratory Bird Day Event

- Vandermause explained that there will be a Birds of Prey program in Harbor View Park at 1:00 p.m.
- Vandermause stated that she will also look into having Paul Reigner's Birdie Bus after the program.
- Vandermause stated that the event will run from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and asked if any of the committee members would like to volunteer for half of the event.
- Seroka stated that he should be able to come in the afternoon and he will get back with Vandermause.

5. Walk Through Bird View Park & Discuss Placement of Bird and Bat Houses

- Heller stated that at the last meeting the committee discussed walking around Bird View Park so that the committee could be familiar with the area.
- Wegner pointed out that it is probably too late in the day to see birds in the park today.
- Some of the committee members will meet at the platform in Bird View Park at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday May 18th.
- Seroka did some research on what type of the plants would attract birds to the park.

- Seroka said that the committee will need to keep cost in mind.
- Seroka said that there are a lot of plants that could be put in the park so the committee can really put anything they want in the park.
- Seroka said that grape vines or the high bush cranberry plants would attract birds.
- Heller asked if Seroka thinks it is necessary to add any plants and Seroka said that he thinks that the committee can see what is there now before buying new plants.
- Wegner said that focus should be more on the invasive species.
- Wegner stated that Paul Reigner is an expert on invasive species and he is willing to help the committee.
- Heller stated that a lot of these things can be discussed on Thursday.
- Heller said that Richmond has also built some bat houses.
- Richmond said that the bat houses should not be placed near woods.
- Richmond thought to place the bat houses behind the bathrooms at the marina and down by the beach.
- Onsurd said that bats have been declining in the area.
- Wegner said that the white nose syndrome was found in the caves at Horseshoe Bay.
- Heller asked if there is anything that can be done to combat this condition and Wegner said that there is not.
- Scherer asked about the martin houses and Richmond reported that the house at the marina was moved to the dog park.
- Onsurd said that there is a martin house in Ephraim close to the marina, but he has never seen any martins in it.
- Richmond said that the martin population has declined.
- Heller asked if there has been any activity in the other martin house and Richmond stated that he hasn't watched it.
- Scherer suggested advertising for volunteers when Village puts out another newsletter.

6. Next Meeting Time and Date

The next meeting is to be determined.

7. Adjourn

Heller moved to adjourn, second by Wegner, motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Megan Vandermause*