

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN LANDS PLANNING AD HOC PANEL OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2014, IN THE MAPLE BOARDROOM OF THE HILTON GARDEN INN HOTEL, 26225 N. RIVERWOODS BOULEVARD, METTAWA, ILLINOIS.**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bohm called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Upon a call of the roll, the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Bohm and Members Cohn, Johnson, Sheldon and Stephenson (7:25pm),

Absent: Members Weiland and Lys

Also present: Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk.

Chairman Bohm declared there was a quorum.

**C. Review and approval of minutes from the September 2, 2014 meeting.**

Member Sheldon moved to accept the minutes of September 2, 2014 as presented and

Member Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**D. UPDATE ON WRD PROJECT STATUS**

Chairman Bohm recapped that the WRD project proposal was not only approved at the last village board meeting, but the scope of duty was expanded to include input on the trail system and right-of-way parcels. Member Johnson offered that Chairman Armstrong of the Public Works Committee might have helpful road information concerning the right-of-way parcels. Bob Irvin added that the county maps illustrating the yellow lines would also be helpful. He stated that the information would show a road including a right-of-way that would encompass 60ft, with the margin of 15 – 18ft on either side, not necessarily divided equally, but most newer roads are centered. Member Johnson also added that the FOIA would furnish a plat of survey for the county, if necessary.

Chairman Bohm advised the group the group that he would be driving around to look for trees located in the right-of-way parcels. He further stated that on Tuesday, October 7, he and Jay Womak of WRD would be visiting all 13 properties to inventory and focus on planning. He invited others to accompany him, if interested and available. He mentioned that lot 13 was not easily accessible, due to the fact that it is a residential lot located in a gated community. Bob Irvin suggested that WRD updated their project schedule, since they are starting one month later, to which Chairman Bohm agreed and noted that the interview process would be forthcoming soon.

Bob Irvin shared the village board's sentiment that the WRD schedule did not have to be so aggressive and that they would rather have a more relaxed schedule to result in a thorough job.

## **E. DISCUSS OPEN SPACES ZONING DISTRICT**

Chairman Bohm questioned if they should create a list of desired sites for the open spaces zoning district, and Member Sheldon replied that she favored waiting for WRD to submit its report with their input and recommendations. Chairman Bohm agreed, but felt that Whippoorwill Preserve would be likely on the list. Bob Irvin shared that he spoke with the Lake County Forest Preserve about the Middlefork Savanna preserve portion, which is currently zoned commercial and they are agreeable to have that parcel zoned open space. Member Sheldon cautioned that the idea should be submitted as a whole picture/plan, rather than a piecemeal process. Bob Irvin felt that the plan should then include other Lake County Forest Preserve properties to be zoned open space, in concurrence with the WRD plan. Member Johnson also agreed, and cautioned prematurely suggesting some parcels favored as open space zoning might accidentally exclude other parcels with potential endangered wildlife species.

Member Cohn wanted to put all village owned properties in the open space zoning district without delay, as he is an open space advocate. Bob Irvin and Member Sheldon cautioned that WRD should be allowed to do what they were hired to do and follow the open space zoning district recommendations from there. Bob Irvin also pointed out that lot# 13 was behind a gated community with no public access, which would be a conflict with open space zoning. Member Sheldon inquired if lot# 12 was a potential village hall site, to which Bob Irvin replied that it was.

Member Johnson suggested that when Chairman Bohm and Jay Womak were visiting the Mettawa village owned site in Sanctuary Estates that he might point out the wildlife corridor opportunity that could be acquired through a purchase by the Lake County Forest Preserve. He thought that the other wildlife corridors were at risk due to development.

Member Cohn inquired how to communicate to the village board the panel's direction/decision about the open space zoning districts, to which Bob Irvin replied that it would be communicated first to the Parks & Recreation Committee, who would then convey this idea to the village board. He further stated that it was his job to carry this direction to the Parks & Recreation Committee, to be put on their upcoming agenda. Member Johnson felt it was not the panel's purpose to make such recommendations forthright, but to get the expert's (WRD) opinion first, to which Chairman Bohm agreed. Member Cohn stated that he now understood the process, but sensed a hesitation from the group. Members Johnson and Sheldon both stated that there was no hesitation, but they must trust WRD to render their opinion before proceeding. Member Johnson was even in favor of a more conservative approach such as a conservation easement, but only after WRD submitted their report.

Chairman Bohm noted an empty lot next to Whippoorwill Preserve on Mettawa Woods Drive and wondered if the village should also acquire that land and if this suggestion was beyond the scope of the Open Lands Ad Hoc Panel. Bob Irvin saw nothing wrong with that suggestion, but counseled that the panel would acquire more credibility by waiting for the WRD report to be completed and have that come out in the process. He demonstrated the example that properties# 10 & 11 surround land owned by Grainger (34 acres on the east and 70 acres on the west) which could only be permitted to develop 20 home sites and perhaps they would approach Grainger and ask them to donate the land to open space as a tax write-

off. Member Johnson mentioned that perhaps WRD could suggest a conservation plan for any potential PUD. Bob Irvin stated that the acquisition of properties# 10 & 11 was a result of a court settlement, rather than a planned procurement.

**F. UPDATE ON OASIS PARK STATUS**

Chairman Bohm noted that the topsoil was almost done being spread, but wondered if it was too late to put in a cover crop, to which Member Johnson replied yes. Chairman Bohm shared that he was concerned about erosion before something could be planted.

**G. DISCUSS MOLA MEETING ON 10/5/14**

Chairman Bohm noted that the hosts expect a good turn out for the upcoming meeting and Member Sheldon encouraged everyone to RSVP. It was noted that the former Phillips residence off of Route 60 and Bennett was the location of the event.

**H. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY APPEAR BEFORE THE AD HOC PANEL FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE VILLAGE BOARD.**

Member Cohn shared that he attended a Lake Forest Open Land event and was quite impressed, which included parachuting/hanggliding bagpipers. Chairman Bohm invited those interested to join the 10/7/14 8:00am tour and village-owned site visits with himself and Jay Womak.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items discussed, Member Sheldon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm, and Member Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

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Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk