

**TOWN OF  
GIBRALTAR  
PARKS AND LANDS COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2012  
4097 HIGHWAY 42 FISH CREEK WI  
8:00 A.M.**

**Call to Order:** Hackbarth Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

**Present:** Chairman Hackbarth stated that a quorum of the committee was present. Members present were Hackbarth Hackbarth, Merkel Merkel, Lea Lea, Buske Buske, and Ashley Ashley.

**Proper Notice/Adopt Agenda:** Hackbarth verified the agenda had been properly noticed. It was moved by Merkel and seconded by Ashley to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Approve Minutes:** It was moved by Ashley and seconded by Buske to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2011 meeting as corrected. Motion carried.

**Chair Report:** Hackbarth reviewed the 2012 Parks and Lands Budget. Hackbarth stated that \$10,658 was paid in January 2011; but charged to 2010 by the accountant, for the repair of Sailor Sam's wall. That money was not available to spend and needs to be added to the 2011 final figures, when looking at what we spent compared to our budget.

**Sub-Committee Reports:**

**Gardens:** Buske stated that mulch needs to be ordered. Sharon said that she will take care of ordering two truck loads of mulch from Algoma Lumber. Buske showed the wholesale list from Tillmans and that the Town has set up to save us on replacement of trees and shrubs. Buske purchased a reference book regarding pruning which will help the town maintenance department. Beth has approved reimbursing Buske for the book. It will be turned in by Buske when she is no longer on the committee.

**Invasive Species:** Lea had nothing new to report at this time.

**Chambers Island Lighthouse:** Joel Blahnik reported that members of the Maritime Museum are interested in a tour of Chambers Island Lighthouse and Holy Name Retreat House. Joel reported that MaryAnn found old correspondence regarding historical register for the Chambers Island Lighthouse but no confirmation. The Retreat House can handle transportation for visitors on Chambers Island. Hackbarth reported that a Town Building Committee has been formed and is willing to working with the Parks and Lands on repairing the Chambers Island Lighthouse. Members of the Building Committee are Karl Stubenvoll, Steve Sohns and Tom Birmingham. The Parks and Lands Committee is in favor of working together. Hackbarth suggested having a joint visit to Chambers Island with the Building Committee in the spring.

**Review and Discuss Wisconsin DNR Forester's Report:** Hackbarth called in a forester from the DNR regarding management and advice for cutting trees. The report is very detailed with various options to review. Buske stated the report seems to recommend keeping cedars in most

areas of the park. Buske suggested having a variety from one area to another. Buske recommended keeping the Dogwood trees as they are good for wildlife and removing vast Juniper shrubs. Lea stated it would be nice to know which area according to the grant is to have restrictions. Sharon will obtain a survey showing the entire park as well as the wetlands of Fish Creek Park. She will also try to obtain a copy of the restrictions on the grant through the DNR. Buske stated the Scotch Pines should be removed.

*It was moved by Hackbarth and seconded by Ashley to have the Maintenance Department remove the Scotch Pines in Fish Creek Park (in pink circles on Forester's report) as recommended by the DNR this winter. Lea requested the Maintenance Department contact her regarding cutting the Scotch Pines in the park near her house. Motion carried.*

Merkel questioned whether we want to go native with all cedars and junipers or do we want to go with a new park having a variety of trees. Buske stated that Fish Creek Park is an ideal location for increasing walking paths. The Parks and Lands Committee will try to have a meeting with the DNR Forester to determine what trees should be removed.

Dave Bultman stated that he and his son, Bob, will review the Forester's report. Bultman reported that some of the Junipers are dying out. Merkel suggested a service road to the back of the property for a fire lane. Hackbarth thought this was a good idea. Dave Bultman stated that Half Mile Bridge Condos has a path by the "pond" that enters the back of our park.

**Proposals for Painting the Welcome Sign:** Two painting proposals were received for the Fish Creek Welcome Sign. Bryzek's proposal is not to fill the cracks and Hasenjager's is to fill the cracks. Lea suggested trying Sikkens stain instead of Cabots as they have found this to be better.

*It was moved by Buske and seconded by Lea to accept the proposal from Bryzek and have him review both stains and judge which would give us the best wear over time. Motion carried.*

This item will be placed on the Five-Year Plan for follow-up maintenance.

**Scope of Work to be Done at Chambers Island Lighthouse:** The Parks and Lands Committee viewed the pictures taken of the Chambers Island Lighthouse. The "room" where the light of the lighthouse was located was removed with permission from the State many years ago and that "house" area is in a museum in Nebraska. However, the top of where the light had been needs to be improved and is a priority according to Joel. The framework where the "lid" comes down needs repair and Al Matzke; who is a contractor and has worked on this previously, is willing to work on the lid of the lighthouse. The railing around the lid area needs to be made safer by just adding a pattern insert in the railing. Hackbarth asked that Joel obtain several lid quotes for the Parks and Land Committee to review.

The foundation is the next priority according to Joel. The foundation has cracks and needs repair such as tuck pointing. Joel will obtain several quotes for this repair even if we don't do it this year. This information will help us budget the repair for next year if postponed.

The soffit under the eaves needs repair and Joel will ask Al Matzke to evaluate whether it needs to be replaced or just repaired. Buske suggested we ask Matzke to give us a report on this when he is at the lighthouse for the "lid" repair. However, the soffit issue can wait per Joel.

Pest control is needed for this year per Joel. Joel reported that Matzke's daughter painted the entire boat house at no charge.

Joel reported that years ago he took Gibraltar residents out to the lighthouse as a public relations issue as many had no idea what Chambers Island was like. Joel reported the History Room is popular along with the lighthouse. An article in the next Gibraltar Newsletter would be of interest to the residents.

Lawn mower issue will be placed on a future agenda.

**Grapevine Wreath's with Bows 2012 by Carol Olson:** This will be on next month's agenda.

**Review 2012 Park and Lands Budget:** Hackbarth reported on the review of the 2012 budget as there were several changes during the budgeting process. Hackbarth reported that the signs in the parks need to be repainted and/or repaired. The Parks and Lands Committee will place the trash containers on next month's agenda. We need to obtain a list of containers and where they are located in the village area. The Parks and Lands Committee would like to obtain proposals from several masons for the repair needed on the stone wall in Sunset Beach Park, the priority of the repair plus the cost divided into phases; such as priority repairs and minor repairs.

**Public Comment:** Dave Bultman reported that the building on the Windmill Land has a loose pipe coming out of the roof. He suggested that our maintenance department check on this before it becomes a problem. The maintenance department will be informed of this situation. Dave reported that he has a few extra Spruce trees that could be placed behind the wall if approved. Dave inquired about the possibility of painting the windmill in the next couple of years and the door of the building is not hanging correctly. These items will be reviewed at a future meeting.

**Adjourn:** *It was moved by Buske and seconded by Ashley to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.*

Respectfully Submitted

Sharon Kellner, Secretary