Approved: August 25, 2026

PARKS AND LANDS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026
GIBRALTAR TOWN CENTER
4097 MAIN STREET, FISH CREEK WI 54212
8:00 a.m.

Call to Order: Chair Buske called meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Roll call/Quorum: Present: Laurie Buske, Jayson Merkel (arrived at 8:04 a.m., excused briefly from 8:14 am to 8:16 a.m.), Andrea Kinsey-Jauquet, John Lancaster and Kathy Grawien. Absent: None. Also Present: Travis Thyssen and Theresa Cain-Bieri (excused at 8:23 a.m.).

Proper Notice/Adopt Agenda: Buske confirmed proper notice of the agenda. *Motion (Kinsey-Jauquet/Grawien) to adopt the agenda. Carried.*

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s): *Motion (Lancaster/Grawien) to approve minutes from the June 16, 2026 meeting as written. Carried.*

Public Comment: Bob Wise commented on ongoing maintenance and invasive species management at Windmill property.

Fish Creek Park Trail (Knowles Nelson) RFP: Thyssen explained purpose of an RFP and procedure for soliciting proposals. Committee reviewed draft RFP for professional design and engineering services associated with Fish Creek Park Trail Knowles-Nelson Grant project. Discussion included adding preferred trail width and surface material to RFP, referencing CORP and Bike-Ped Plans and ensuring proposed stream crossing is engineered to accommodate anticipated drainage and flooding conditions. Proposals will be returned to Parks & Lands for review and selection of a consulting firm. *Motion (Grawien/Lancaster) to move forward with Request for Proposal, with changes as discussed. Carried.*

Fish Creek Park Stream Restoration & Fish Passage: Thyssen reviewed alternatives for providing fish passage through Fish Creek Park. Thyssen reported the bypass through old channel was determined to be infeasible due to the extent of tree clearing required and changes in elevation, and because DNR would not permit alternative. At Committee's direction, Thyssen contacted adjacent property owners and previous property owner regarding proposed alternatives. He reported both support maintaining existing dam and pedestrian bridge due to their historical and personal significance. Committee discussion focused on balancing fish passage objectives with environmental considerations, preservation of existing bridge and pond, neighborhood concerns, recreational use, and long-term grant funding requirements. Committee also discussed providing additional information at a future public informational meeting. *Motion (Buske/Lancaster) to recommend Board approve the proposed Fish Creek restoration project; restore creek meander as proposed; create a fish passage bypass on west side of bridge while retaining existing dam and pedestrian bridge; maintain no less than 50% of existing pond; and, upon approval, hold a public informational meeting to explain project, including endangered species considerations and how they will be addressed. Carried.*

Fish Creek Park Bridge Design: Committee reviewed concept for a covered bridge crossing as part of main passageway. Discussion included potential to construct a

covered bridge, architectural style, visibility from highway, and opportunity to create a distinctive feature that would draw visitors into Park. Travis mentioned a local resident had expressed interest in contributing toward a covered bridge beyond those funded through Knowles-Nelson Grant. Committee discussed bridge as a distinctive entrance feature that could serve as a setting for photographs, weddings, engagements, and other community uses, while complementing character of Park. *Motion (Merkel/Lancaster) to move forward with plans for a covered bridge at the first trail crossing. Carried.*

Blossomburg Cemetery Flagpole Update: Buske reported she met with Phyllis Schot and her son regarding placement of flagpole. Town crew marked cemetery plots so pole would not interfere. Placement was set back to not interfere with snow removal. Flagpole has been ordered.

Sunset Park wall issues: Thyssen reviewed ongoing erosion and deterioration of Sunset Park shoreline wall and adjacent area. The committee discussed the need to develop a long-term plan that addresses shoreline erosion, drainage, public safety, and aesthetics while maintaining public access to the beach. Discussion included replacing existing cones with a safer interim solution, removing unstable rock, incorporating previously approved drainage improvements, providing beach access, and designing repairs to complement existing historic stone wall. Merkel suggested viewing shoreline improvements in Egg Harbor. Thyssen will prepare preliminary concepts for committee review before soliciting bids.

Reports:

Chair: Buske reported a memorial bench donation has been received for Clark Park. She requested committee be provided Board meeting packet materials related to Parks & Lands items.

Invasive Species: Lancaster reported on Weed Warriors activities at Fish Creek Park, including removal of approximately six to seven large bags of Dame's rocket. Lancaster also reported Friends of Gibraltar conducted a garlic mustard pull with youth volunteers at the end of May.

Gardens: Buske reported restoration of landscaping impacted by West Downtown project is ongoing. Updates included restoration work near Sailor Sam's, White Gull pocket garden, Spruce Park, and Sunset Park.

Lighthouse: Zellers provided written report. Updates included pre-season maintenance, repair of cistern liner, lighthouse opening over Memorial Day weekend, June tour attendance, ongoing window restoration, and Chambers Island Association activities. Sohns noted roof area near upper hatch should be repainted before further deterioration occurs. Restoration of original lighthouse well was discussed.

Administrator: Thyssen reported outline trail has been opened with minimal environmental impact and encouraged committee to walk trail before any widening is considered. Thyssen thanked Merkel for mapping trail alignment to minimize impacts to existing trees and vegetation. Trail is intended to connect with future Knowles-Nelson trail corridor

Set next meeting date: August 25, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

Adjourn: *Motion (Merkel/Grawien) to adjourn at 9:21a.m. Carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Reetz, Clerk