

## TOWN OF WEST POINT

Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.84, the Town Board of the Town of West Point held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at the West Point Town Hall. The meeting was published in the Lodi Enterprise, the Sauk Prairie Star, posted in the three designated places in the town.

The Town Board meeting was called to order by Ashley Nedeau-Owen, Town Chair, at 7:00 p.m. The Town Board members present were: Ashley Nedeau-Owen -Town Chairman, Renee Nair-1<sup>st</sup> Supervisor, Gordon Carncross-2<sup>nd</sup> Supervisor, Karmin Enge-3<sup>rd</sup> Supervisor, and Matt Zeman-4<sup>th</sup> Supervisor. Also present were Taffy Buchanan-Town Clerk and Lonna Zeman - Town Treasurer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

A motion was made by Renee Nair to approve the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gordon Carncross – motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Input – Ron Grasshoff, former Open Space Committee Chair, presented a “Management Plan for the Ryan Park Prairie Planting” & seed list to the Town Board which is attached to the minutes.

Copies of the November 8, 2018 Town Board Meeting were emailed to each town board member prior to the meeting for their review. A motion was made by Gordon Carncross to approve the November 8, 2018 Town Board Meeting minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Renee Nair – yes 4, no 0, abstain 1 - motion carried.

Treasurer Lonna Zeman had prepared the following report: General Fund as of November 30, 2018 - \$489,720.94; Park Fund \$772.14; Historical Society is \$4,058.19; Ryan’s Haven Escrow account is \$3,607.58, and Savannah Tree is \$1,638.85 is in a 1-year CD (matures 5/24/19). The Town Treasurer and Town Clerk reconciled the bank accounts for the month of November.

Correspondence – The Town received draft minutes from the Sauk Prairie Ambulance Commission from the September 18, 2018 meeting. The Columbia County Sheriff’s office sent an email notifying the Town that the Padley Road sign is missing; the Town has already ordered a new one. Laura Olah, CSWAB, emailed the Town the article “Three years later, Wisconsin hasn’t stopped toxic chemical flow”.

The bills were reviewed by each town board member prior to the town board meeting. A copy of the bills, deposits, budget for 2018 were given to each town board member for their information. A motion was made by Matt Zeman to take \$297.40 from 51441 Election Expense and put \$29.64 in 51108 Telephone, \$170.76 in 51404 Computer, and \$97.00 in 51932 Insurance; also to take \$23350.50 from 53316 Highway Reconstruction and put it in 53312 Snowplowing, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gordon Carncross – motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Karmin Enge to pay the bills as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Renee Nair - motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Renee Nair to authorize the Town Clerk to pay the bills that are within the 2018 budget that come in before the end of the year, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gordon Carncross – motion carried unanimously.

#### Reports:

Town Park Committee – no report

Lodi Fire Commission – no report

Sauk Fire District – no report

Plan Commission – Gordon Carncross reported on the December 6, 2018 meeting the Plan Commission made a motion to deny the variance for Arthur & Ted Hill. The Plan Commission also discussed the changes to Chapter 6 Land Division Ordinance and decided to present it to the Town Board.

Sauk EMS Committee – no report – should be meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in January

Transfer Site Report – Matt Zeman will be at the Transfer Site handing out permits on Saturday.

Lodi EMS Committee – Karmin Enge reported according to the City of Lodi's Attorney the Lodi Area EMS Commission can decide to enter into contracts on their own, they do not need the municipalities approval.

Open Space Committee – no report

Columbia County Report – Kevin Kessler reported 2 County buildings will be for sale the former Health and Human Services building and the Administrative County Highway building in Wyocena.

Fish, Crystal and Mud Lake District/Pumping – no report

Broadband Committee – no report

Andy Zimmer from MSA, the Town Engineer, has requested and received some geotechnical proposals for pavement boring for Van Ness Road which will be worked on in 2019. A motion was made by Matt Zeman for MSA to authorize approval of the geotechnical proposal, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Renee Nair – motion carried unanimously.

Andy Zimmer reviewed the billing of \$82,097.82 for the 2018 Road Improvement Project from D.L. Gasser and recommended payment in full. A motion was made by Gordon Carncross to approve the payment of \$82,097.82 to D.L. Gasser, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Renee Nair – motion made unanimously.

The Town Board would like Columbia County to do brushing along the Town Roads and will send an updated list to Bill Statz and Jon Ballweg reminding them of what needs to be done.

A motion was made by Matt Zeman to license Schoepp' s Cottonwood Resort for 45 mobile homes, Pine Vista for 67 mobile homes, and Crystal Lake Park for 111 mobile homes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gordon Carncross – motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matt Zeman to grant a Mobile Home For Farm Labor license to Gasser Ventures Inc. and Jeff Morter, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gordon Carncross – motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Matt Zeman to have the Town Caucus on Thursday January 10, 2019 at 6:30pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Renee Nair – motion carried unanimously.

The Town received an email on December 11, 2018 from Lauren Ramirez, Columbia County Planning & Zoning stating Ted Hill is withdrawing his variance request.

Kevin Kessler presented proposed revisions of Chapter 6 – Land Divisions to the Town Board for their review before the January meeting.

The Funds from Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley was tabled until next month.

A motion was made by Karmin Enge to contract with JB Systems to redesign West Point's website with the "Bronze" plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Renee Nair – motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Ashley Nedeau-Owen to move \$219.29 from 51600 Town Hall Maintenance and put it in 51405 Web Page and to authorize payment of \$749.50 to JB Systems, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt Zeman – motion carried unanimously.

"Appoint Members for Open Space Committee" was tabled until next month.

Based on the information given at Lodi Area EMS Commission meeting the Town will not be acting on the contract between the LAEMS and Town of Dane.

Copies of an Emergency Response Plan template were given to the Town Board. Ashley Nedeau-Owen, Matt Zeman, and Renee Nair will be listed on the "Emergency Operations Center Alerting List".

The next regular town board meeting will be on Thursday, January 10, 2019 immediately following the Caucus which is at 6:30pm, on the agenda is: Town roads, Emergency Response Plan, appoint Open Space Committee member, Chapter 6, brushing, FSLV- fund, and any other business that can be legally added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Karmin Enge to adjourn the December 13, 2018 Town Board meeting at 8:53pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Renee Nair – motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By  
*Taffy Buchanan*  
Town Clerk

Management Plan  
Ryan Park Prairie Planting  
Town of West Point

By  
Ron Grasshoff (former OSC Chair)  
December 2018

**The Site**

The site is approximately 4.5 acres including an area that was graded and seeded for stormwater treatment part of construction of the West Point Town hall in 2003. A dry detention basin with a spillway is located at the north end of the site. The site was an agricultural field prior to purchase of the land to construction of the Town hall. The town owns land to the east of the site to East Lake Drive that is currently rented for agriculture.

**Background**

The Town Board approved of the prairie planting that included the stormwater treatment area and an additional strip of agricultural land (approximately 50 to 100 feet by 500 feet) on the east boundary of the treatment area. This strip of agricultural land was planted in Roundup Ready soybeans in the spring of 2010. The treatment area was seeded in cool season grasses (likely a standard DOT seed mix used for highway right of way) that included birdsfoot trefoil which has proved to be problematic.

Site preparation included at least two treatments of Roundup during the spring and summer of 2010. A burn was conducted in November of 2010 and a frost seeding occurred with a broadcast seeder occurred (see photos) just prior to Thanksgiving in 2010. The seed mix was acquired through the DNR Natural Areas program and the seed list is attached.

Birdsfoot trefoil was discovered in the spring of 2011 and the site was treated at least twice with Milestone a legume specific herbicide. The site has been burned every year beginning in 2012.

**Management Plan**

The efforts to control birdsfoot trefoil, with fire and herbicides, have had only marginal success. Also the following invasive species should be monitored and controlled:

- Reed canary grass- southwest corner of the planting and around the storm water retention structure.
- Wild parsnip and sweet clover- the edge southeast edge (adjacent to the Hwy 188 ROW) of the planting
- Quack grass-several locations.

Burning on an annual basis has helped somewhat with the invasive species but repeated burns have favored native grasses over Forbes (wild flowers).

For future management the recommendations are as follows:

1. Reduce prescribed fire to every two to three years. The east half over the planting does not need fire as often as the west half as invasive species (i.e. birdsfoot trefoil and reed canary grass) are not as prevalent. And, Forbes in the seed mix may emerge and compete better with grasses when burning occurs less often.

2. To conduct prescribed fire the planting should be divided into two or more small units with mowed firebreaks. Smaller fires are easier to manage with few volunteers and fire can be directed at problem areas.
3. Use mowing as a management strategy more often. Mowing should be timed correctly and carried out with clean (weed free as much as possible) equipment. The mowing height location and timing of mowing activity should be determined annually and occur during mid-summer to late-late summer after the ground nesting birds complete their nesting cycle. If possible mowed areas should be seeded with native species after mowing. Exceptions, reed canary grass, wild parsnip and sweet clover should be mowed before they go to seed. Also, the Parsnip and Sweet Clover can be hand pulled.
4. Areas along the edge of the prairie planting may be permanently mowed back if it appears that reed canary grass or wild parsnip and sweet clover.
5. A permanent fire break should be maintained with mowing along the entire perimeter of the prairie planting to minimize encroachment into the planting and minimize site preparation with a burn is planned.
6. The prairie planting should be inspected to assure the woody species like boxelder, and shrubs do not invade. Woody species should be cut and the cut surface should be treated with a herbicide (either Roundup or Garlon 4).
7. The information kiosk at the site will likely need maintenance in the future.

### **Summary**

The original landscape in West Point was dominated by dry-mesic prairie or oak savannah. The planting does not represent these plant communities but has the appearance of a native grassland even though species diversity is limited. It is absolutely beneficial to several bird species and pollinators and in the writers opinion it is an asset to the town and it should be maintained well into the future. The adjacent area to the west is a cool season grass area which also supports the habitat values of the planting and it should be mowed once or twice a year to height of 6 to 12 inches. A fire break (previously mentioned) should be mowed to separate this area from the planting. If resources are available, the prairie planting could easily be extended slightly to the east on the land that is cropped. This would enhance and add to the habitat and aesthetic values of the planting.



Pre-scribed Fire for Site Preparation October 2010



October 2010





Frost Seeding (planting) November 2010  
Gordon Carncross on tractor in background Scott Weber in foreground provide significant technical assistance.



Species	Botanical Name	PLS	Amount	Initial cost estimate	From available seed via Scott Weber	final mix
<b>Forbs</b>						X
Butterflyweed	Acclepias tuberosa	PLS	6 oz	75	X	X
N England Aster	Aster novae-angliae	PLS	4 oz	50	X	X
Sky Blue Aster	Aster azureus	PLS	4 oz	25	X A, oolentangiensis	X
Purple Prairie Clover	Dalea purpurea	PLS	8 oz	10	X	X
Leadplant	Amorpha canescens	PLS	4 oz	25	X	
Ox eye sunflower	Heliopsis helianthoides	PLS	8 oz	9	X	X
Rough Blazing Star	Liatris pycnostachya	PLS	3 oz	56	X	X
Bergamot	Monarda fistulosa	PLS	6 oz	56	X	X
Yellow Coneflower	Ratibida pinnata	PLS	8 oz	15	X	X
Black Eyed Susan	Rudbeckia hirta	PLS	6 oz	10	X	X
Spiderwort	Tradescantia ohiensis	PLS	3 oz	19		X
Pale P. Coneflower	Echinacea pallida	PLS	6 oz	32	X	X
Stiff Goldenrod	Solidago rigida	PLS	4 oz	0 free	X	?
Rosinweed	Silphium integrifolium	PLS	6 oz	34	X	X
Brown Eyed Susan	Rudbeckia triloba					X
<b>Additional species depending on price &amp; availability</b>						
Potentilla arguta			2 oz		X	
Prairie coreopsis						?
Rattlesnake Master	Eryngium yuccifolium		3 oz		X	X
Compass Plant						
Showy Sunflower						
Evening Primrose	Oenothera biennis		4 oz		X	X
Hoary Vervain	Verbena stricta		4 oz		X	X
Golden Alexander	Zizia aurea		6 oz		X	X
Milk Vetch						X
White Prairie Clover	Delea candidum		4 oz		X	
White false indigo	Baptisia leucantha		2 oz		X	X
Wild Quinine	Parthenium quinquefolium		3 oz		X	X
Upland boneset	Eupatorium altissimum					?
Early Sunflower	Heliopsis					X
Mountain Mint	Pycnanthemum virginianum					X
<b>Grasses</b>						X
Big Bluestem	Adropogon gerardi	PLS	1.5 lbs	7	X	
Side Oats Grama	Bouteloua curtipendula	PLS	6 lbs	10	X	X
Canada Wild Rye	Elymus canadensis	PLS	4 lbs	0 have seed		X
Junegrass	Koeleria macrantha	PLS	1.5 lbs	40 estimate	X	
Switch Grass	Panicum virgatum	PLS	1.5 lbs	7	X	X
Indian Grass	Sorghastrum nutans	PLS	1.5 lbs	5	X	X
Little Bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium	PLS	12 lbs	15	X	X