

Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust Meeting Minutes
March 21st, 2011 – New Richmond High School Commons

The March, 2011 meeting of the SPLPT was called to order at 5:00 pm by President Beth Wood. Board members present were Beth Wood, Dan Davison, Paul Schottler, Trish Moberg, Mike Kelly, Valerie Hogan, Mike Reiter and Pete Kling. Consultants Cheryl Clemens and Aleisha Miller were also in attendance.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

The Secretary's Report was approved as sent via email.

1. Val provided officer and committee descriptions earlier via email which were reviewed.
 - a. **Board Development Committee:** Develop and enhance the strength of the SPLPT by identifying potential board members, enhancing their knowledge, and encouraging participation. (Chair: Beth Wood, 715-248-7300 or bwood@frontiernet.net.)
 - b. **Education Committee:** Develop and deliver educational programs that enhance people's understanding of land stewardship and environmental protection. (Chair: Mike Reiter, 715-246-6643 or mikesal@frontiernet.net.)
 - c. **Marketing & Public Relations Committee:** Increase organizational visibility and recognition in surrounding communities. (Chair: Trish Moberg, 715-294-2610 or trishmoberg@yahoo.com.)
 - d. **Membership & Fundraising Committee:** Maintain a stable, active membership and conduct fundraising activities that contribute to the financial strength of the organization. (Chair: Valerie Hogan, 715-248-4849 or valerie@growthstrategies.org.)
 - e. **Property Acquisition & Management Committee:** Protect environmentally sensitive land (through acquisition or easements), and manage properties to ensure environmental quality, while following and enforcing the requirements contained in property agreements. (Chair: Mike Kelly, 715-246-4109 or mjkelly@frontiernet.net.)

Full committee descriptions will be finalized and current copies retained in our file cabinet.

2. Val also provided via email the fundraising database and a current members list to board members. A discussion on adding new board members was held. A few individuals have been identified as potential candidates.
3. Record storage, organization and documentation will continue with storage of these important documents maintained in the filing cabinet located at Ron's Law Office. Mike R. has agreed to coordinate this effort. Any Board member who has the original documents is urged to get them into the system. A database of items maintained there will be provided. Once this is accomplished time lines can be established for annual inspections and other needed activities of the Property and Management Committee.
4. When our documents are compiled work will proceed in the updating of our Board notebooks.
5. It was reported that the gate agreement on the McMurtrie Preserve has not yet been finalized. The cabin will be de-winterized in May and the portable restroom made ready for use.
6. A site inspection checklist for easements is in the process of being developed.
7. The status of the Sessions property will be updated at the next meeting.
8. Trish reported that the Service Learning Day is scheduled for Friday, May 20th. A group of 8 students will be working at the McMurtrie Preserve getting the landscape ready for spring use.
9. Aleisha reported that there are no classes scheduled for this spring as yet but letters will be going out to the school districts soon. With budget cuts transportation of the students could be a problem.

10. The “canned” presentation is currently tabled until time is allotted for its development.
11. Val reported that we currently have 61 members with more coming in daily. The Holiday Card solicitation was a big success.
12. The Document roles and responsibilities write-ups were discussed with no action taken. These need to be finalized soon. We also need to revisit our Strategic Plan and make modifications to meet our current status.
13. Val provided an overview of her recent Gathering Waters Retreat. Land Trust accreditation for our Trust would be very desirable but a lot of effort is needed for this to happen. More board members should consider going to the next retreat as it was extremely beneficial. Easements can also be purchased as well as donated. Contacts are being made to work with us as an easement facilitator. An Endowment Fund for our Trust could be a valuable resource for long range planning and provide financial security for the future. All of these items need further discussion. Val will provide additional highlights to any interested members.
14. Trish reported on the 2011 New Richmond High School Service Day scheduled for May 20th. Groups of students from 5-50 can be provided to perform scheduled work on that day. The McMurtrie Property will be provided 8 students to work on grounds clean up.
15. A June newsletter sent out prior to our July Annual meeting is planned.

The next scheduled meeting is set for Monday, May 9th at the New Richmond High School Commons starting at 5 pm.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Reiter – Recorder

After the meeting a discussion ensued concerning setting aside appropriate time to finalize pressing issues with everyone present and with no distractions.

Action Items (Past & Current):

1. Agreements on McMurtrie gate signed. **(Pete, Ron)**
2. Copies of easements and properties compiled and copies for Notebooks distributed **(Mike R.)**
3. A “canned presentation” to promote the trust developed. **(Pete)**
4. A fundraiser will be discussed by the “Membership & Fundraising Committee,” once formed. **(Beth & Valerie)**
5. Status of Sessions Property defined **(Pete, Dan & Ron)**
6. Cheryl has provided a list of SPLPT easements and deed restrictions. The Property Committee will review this and draft a Plan of Action. Copies of these documents will be placed in our filing cabinet at Ron’s office.
7. A “Site Inspection Check List” and “Annual Landowner Questionnaire” handouts with a cover letter will be sent out annually to track compliance. The Property Committee will be responsible for this effort.
8. Proper documents will be secured and stored in our repository in Ron’s office. Board notebooks will be updated and standardized. **(Mike R.)**
9. Website updated will proceed **(Mike R. , All)**