

Minutes of the Port Byron Green Committee

February 15th, 2017

1. The Port Byron Green Committee met on Wednesday, February 15th, 2017 at the Port Byron Village Hall, 120 S. Main Street, Port Byron. The meeting was called to order at 7:13 pm.
2. Members present were Sarah Ford, Emily Skelton, Kari Rozeboom, and Wes Wells.
3. A motion was made by Wes, and seconded by Emily, that the Green Committee approve the minutes from the 1/28/17 meeting; all approved and motion carried.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Freenotes Harmony Park Update- Sarah said she presented the proposal to the board, and they were open to it as long as due diligence on railroad ownership was established. Wes said to ask for an 'easement in perpetuity' and find out the price of one instrument (such as the pagoda bells) for a back-up plan in case the board wants to hold off on spending for the park. Since the elections are in April, it may be best to hold off until after the new board is seated. Wes also suggested contacting Kim Riley, Director of River Valley Library, to see if there could be collaboration on costs or placement.
 - b. Earth Day event- It was determined to be too late to coordinate an Earth Day event, but one idea was to hold a spring clean-up around town, or possibly plant some trees. More discussion planned for the next meeting in March.
5. New Business:
 - a. Recycling- Kari said she is waiting for a call back from Matthew P. at Republic Services for more information about business recycling, and hopes to have an update at the next meeting. One idea is to have a recycling bin for business owners to access- such as at the public works building- and each user would have a key for accessing the bin. Another idea for local recycling/reducing waste is to encourage Riverdale Middle School to stop using Styrofoam plates.
 - b. Community Garden- Village Clerk Barb Cray had mentioned the possibility of charging a deposit fee at the community garden plot this year. Wes said it was a good idea to charge, as it will be an investment in the plot of land. Sarah said she can relay to Green Committee support of the plan to Barb and Phil Cray.
 - c. Farmers' Market- Since Jill was not in attendance, and she is open to coordinating the market, the discussion was put on hold until the next meeting.
 - d. Byron Bucks- Emily researched getting an alternative currency flowing in a community, and it typically takes up to a year to establish a system. Contacting local businesses and getting small seed funding will help get the process going. More discussions will ensue in the following months.
 - e. Tree purchase or donations- Sarah presented info on an Iowa DNR deal for bareroot seedlings- \$190 for 250 edible trees (pawpaws, serviceberry, aronia, wild plum), if ordered by February 28th. Since the Green Committee doesn't have a budget, ordering them would not be feasible at this time.

- f. Wes informed the committee that plans are in the works for a GazeboFest event, with live music and more; also. Will to Ben Bike ride is scheduled for June 13th, and there will be a kick-off event featuring live music.
6. Gallery Comments: None
7. With no further business to attend to, a motion was made by Wes, and seconded by Kari, that the meeting be adjourned. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Ford