

**Minutes of the Port Byron Green Committee**  
**May 23, 2018 – Port Byron Village Hall**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The Port Byron Green Committee met on Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

**1. Call to Order:** The Green Committee meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Sarah Ford.

**2. Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum:**

Roll Call: Present: Sarah Ford, Emily Skelton, Kari Rozeboom, and Jill Schutts. Mayor Bruce Peterson and resident Roy Scherer were also in attendance.

**3. Approve Minutes:** Emily made a motion, seconded by Kari, to approve the minutes of the April 25th, 2018 meeting. All in favor and motion passed.

**4. Old Business:**

**a. Freenotes Music Park** – Sarah reported that the Board did not take action on the purchase of the flower instruments, due to insurance issues at the park, and a general lack of location. There is a sense that all the bureaucratic issues – railroad property, insurance, lack of space, etc., may put an indefinite hold on the project. The equipment needs 6 weeks to be ordered and delivered, and the lack of a suitable location is dragging on. The Committee could bring up the purchase if a suitable location can ever be agreed upon.

**b. Farmers' Market:** Bruce said he is anxious to get the market going, and the village could help with a sign, location at the bank, liability, insurance, and promotion. The Committee agreed to start the market on June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays at Black Hawk Bank upper lot. Only a few vendors are lined up so far, and the Committee was encouraged to reach out to possible vendors. Sarah said she would start promoting in The Review.

**c. Community Garden Plot:** The Green Committee was offered two plots still available at the garden, but would anyone be willing to help with it? Sarah noted that living outside of Port Byron would make it difficult to stay on top of it. Jill and Kari had no interest, while Emily said her volunteer time would be best spent elsewhere. Roy said he appreciates the garden though it is not getting mowed as much. He also agreed that a deposit would be beneficial to helping people take care of their plot. The Committee agreed to let someone else take over the two plots held by the GC, and will look into updating guidelines at a future meeting.

**d. Prairie Park Kiosks:** The kiosks and the information in the kiosks are from 2014; additionally, the kiosks are moldy and full of spider webs. The Committee could update the kiosks with historical facts, wildlife info, and new maps. Also, the doggie bag dispenser is empty, and the Living Lands and Waters Adopt-a-Mile sign is faded out. Bruce said he has two young volunteers from National Honor Society and Rotary Interact Club lined up to help with the kiosk project; the Committee could discuss at the next meeting.

**5. New Business:**

**a. Flower planting:** Sarah said some flowers have already been planted, and due to lack of care or maintenance by village employees, planting more flowers would create more work. No further action or discussion is needed.

**b. Third Thursday:** The Committee could have a booth at Third Thursday, but would need to get organized with ideas or handouts by the next meeting. There was no further discussion though.

**c. X-stream Cleanup:** Emily said she would prefer the GC to have a monthly clean-up event as part of the group's volunteer and outreach efforts. We could sign up for the annual August X-stream clean-up; Sarah would provide information at the next meeting.

Emily suggested a garlic mustard pull at Dorrance Park – the date was set for Saturday, June 2, from 10 – noon. Sarah said she would contact the Park Ranger to make sure that would work.

**d. Use of Chemicals on Public Lands:** It was brought to the Committee’s attention that there was purchase of the herbicide called Treflan, which may be used on public lands in Port Byron. According to information about the product, it is harmful to waterways, pets and children, and it only stops germination, it doesn’t kill weeds. Members were concerned about the use of chemicals, especially so close to the river, and the usage of the trails by families and animals. Sarah said she would draft a letter for the GC members to sign, and deliver to the Mayor in our opposition. The Committee could present alternative solutions too.

**6. Gallery Comments:** Roy was in attendance to see what the GC was about, especially if we are planting more green things when the ones planted aren’t always take care of. We assured him we weren’t going to be doing that. He said he has taken care of village owned property before (with mowing, weed-eating, and moving fallen blocks) since the maintenance department doesn’t seem to do so in a timely manner.

There was also discussion on a backyard chicken ordinance, with the Mayor stating he would consider it if a resident were to bring a request before the board.

**7. Adjournment:** With no further business to come before the Committee, Sarah made a motion, seconded by Jill, that the meeting be adjourned. All in favor. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Ford