

WISCONSIN POINT COMMITTEE
Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the Wisconsin Point Committee meeting was held via Zoom.

Members Present: Jenny Van Sickle (City Council), Tom Bridge (Superior Citizen Rep), Mike Raunio (Douglas County-alt), Karina Heim (LSNERR), Nick Danz (UWS), Ruth Ludwig (City Council-alt), and Kevin Feind (WI DNR)

Members Excused: Keith Allen (Douglas County), Thomas Howes (Fond du Lac)

Also Present: Linda Cadotte, John Broihahn (WI Historical Society), Steve LaValley (WI DNR), Shelley Nelson (Superior Telegram), Steven Broudy (Superior Entry Lighthouse Owner)

Meeting called to order by Bridge at 5:03pm.

1. Approval of minutes from February 24, 2020

Motion by Van Sickle, seconded by Feind and carried to approve the Wisconsin Point Committee minutes of February 24, 2020.

2. Introductions
3. Election of Officers

MOTION by Van Sickle, seconded by Danz and carried to appoint Bridge as the chair.

MOTION by Danz, seconded by Heim and carried to appoint Van Sickle as the vice-chair.

4. Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places nomination

John Broihahn from the WI Historical Society updated on the status of the nomination. It is set to go before the National Register Review Board on August 14, 2020. If they approve the nomination, it will be listed on the state register as of that date. Once complete, it is sent to the National Park Service. If approved by them, it will then be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This process takes roughly 1 – 2 months. The nomination is based on the Ojibwa occupation on the Point dated 1840 – 1930s. They still need to find some additional pine pitch scarred trees. They had planned to come in April but due to COVID were not able to so they do need to finalize that. He believes that the nomination boundaries should be physically marked somehow. It would be helpful to have committee members, and others that support this nomination, attend the virtual meeting of the National Register Review Board. It was also recommended that a formal resolution from the City Council supporting the nomination would also be helpful. There was discussion regarding Fond du Lac and if they had been given ample opportunity to review the nomination. They have not given any feedback yet. Broihahn and Cadotte will reach out to them. Van Sickle also asked that the nomination be sent to the Mayor's Commission on Communities of Color as another way to

support it.

MOTION made by Van Sickle, seconded by Feind and carried to support recommending that the City Council support a resolution for the Wisconsin State Register of Historical nomination of Wisconsin Point.

5. Wisconsin Point Trail and Observation Point at the Wi-DNR Bird Sanctuary

Steve LaValley has been working on options to create a trail that would offer observation and access to the Wisconsin DNR Bird Sanctuary newly constructed piping plover habitat. They are wanting to be sure that any trail construction would not impede on the cultural resources that have been identified. The committee designing the piping plover habitat want to put in a grant request to the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology, Wisconsin Coastal Management, and other areas that may have funding to construct the trail. Van Sickle suggested that there could be an opportunity to incorporate the Indian cultural component in the naming of the trail.

MOTION by Feind, seconded by Danz and carried to support the continued efforts of the layout of the trail and seeking funding.

6. Bear Creek Trail

a. Update

The new bridge has the footings poured and the sides up. There has also been a lot of work done on the other side of the creek. The bridge will be the final piece so as to keep people from interaction in the work space until it is completed. The current trail goes from Bear Creek Park to the creek (1 mile) and just over 1 mile from the creek to Wisconsin Point Road, where it will end. The crushed concrete portion is completed and they are beginning to work with the timber crossings. They had to make the corridor wider in some areas to get the bridge footings in so there is some restoration work that will need to be done. They are on track to complete that section of the trail this summer. Originally, there was a proposal to put in a parking lot at the end of the trail, along Wisconsin Point Road but it was decided to hold off on that as Parking Lot 1 is not far from where the trail comes out at Wisconsin Point Road. Once the clay staging area is no longer used to store clay for the landfill that can more easily be turned into a parking lot without needing additional permitting and affecting more natural space.

b. Proposed Future Extensions

The desire is to connect the other areas of Wisconsin Point through a continued trail system. The extension would go from the Wisconsin Point Road, across the road through to where the Howard's Bay project will be done at the old landfill. The other section would go to Dutchman's Creek. The Douglas County Land and Development Committee will need to support going through county lands. LaValley brought up the Conservation Easement and the need to verify these areas if a trail option was in there. Darienne, from the City of Superior, will conduct the wetland delineation for the first extension and help support permitting

as needed. There is potential for some funding from the Reserve, the City and possibly the County for continued trail building efforts.

MOTION by Van Sickle, seconded by Raunio and carried to support the trail extensions, moving forward with next steps.

7. Howards Bay Project Update

Originally the plan was to help fund a pavilion or restroom in the area of Parking Lot 1. A restroom was funded as part of the restoration project. It was then discussed that a pavilion could be put in towards the top of the old landfill area. A six sided pavilion, with 4 seating areas, was proposed that would overlook the bay and the lake. This project will likely commence this fall. Public Works is looking into getting funding to go into resurfacing the road. Van Sickle let the committee know that the City Council passed two resolutions toward some funding for this that would also have an element of paint redesign, including a bike lane. This should be done by September.

8. Director's Update

Cadotte introduced Steven Broudy, the new Superior Entry Lighthouse owner. He shared some background as to how he came to purchase the lighthouse. His intent is to maintain the complete historical integrity of the light house. He plans to remove the lead based paint and asbestos to make it habitable. He also plans to have the original boat cranes there so that there is access. He welcomed the committee to come see the lighthouse at any time and proposed a future tour or committee meeting there.

MOTION by Ludwig, seconded by Danz and carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

The next regular Wisconsin Point Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10th at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted to the Council Meeting of August 4, 2020.