

Ferry Pit Management Committee Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2020

Present: Sid Hoke, Jason Klukas, Paul Verdon, Keith Gilland, LeAnn Ralph, Mark Mosey, Lee Boland, and Kathy Stahl

1. Minutes from the last meeting read. Motion to accept minutes from Mark Mosey and Seconded by Keith.

2. Review and discuss Action Steps for May:

a. Sid: barricades and gates

Sid has been in communication with Ashley Anderson from Anderson Bridge regarding gates and other options for barriers for traffic control. It sounds like Anderson Bridge will help us out in building and installing what we need. In addition, they seem receptive to giving us a fair deal on the work. Sid mentioned he would try to get together with Ashley at the site to assess our needs.

b. Kathy: gate feedback from Town of Colfax meeting

There was concern about access being restricted to the northern part of the Red Cedar River walk-in launch site. However, Town board members would support our decision of whether to gate at the bend in the road or allow vehicle access to the river.

Discussion by our Committee:

*consider a trial period of having gate at the proposed southeastern site. If the property is respected and vehicles stay on road, maybe we consider schedule of when gate to the northern river access is open/closed.

*If opened without a barrier to the northern part of the river, is it going to be harder to gate later?

*we agreed that we could wait on our decision on what to do re gating that access point.

c. Sid: gate cost estimates

Sid will get gate costs for next meeting (3 gates)

He also said barricades from Weiser Concrete could be an economical choice if we needed temporary closures. They seem receptive to the project and may help us out.

d. Paul: DNR shocking update

DNR fishery crew is still working from home due to coronavirus Safer At Home. No field work is being done. Shocking survey may be a possibility this fall or spring 2021. Paul agreed to stay in contact with DNR biologist for updates.

e. Question: When will the property be opened?

Kathy explained once Landmark receives (or is denied) grant money then the property will be transferred to the Town of Colfax and then a date to open to public can be set. She was in contact with Gina Keenan from WDNR who indicated they hope to have the Knowles-Nelson grant contract out in the next few weeks.

f. Kathy: Property uses allowed by grant

Gina Keenan indicated only nature based outdoor recreation uses are allowed on Knowles Nelson grant supported property. "Typical activities are hiking, wildlife or nature observation, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, canoeing and multi-use trail activities. Ineligible activities are those where the primary focus is not appreciation of nature such as those that require developed open spaces, swimming pools, tennis courts and biking trails". Bike trails, ATV would not meet the definition of nature-based outdoor recreation. LeAnn suggested that we'll need to have signage relative to accepted/unaccepted property use.

3. Name of the property:

LeAnn provided background information on Forrest Ferry and felt we need to include some recognition to the family when naming. Members suggested ideas that they came up with for a name. Sid suggested that the pond be named for Forest Ferry but the overall property take on a name suggested by committee members.

Keith suggested we put our ideas for a name out on email and vote on our preferred name. Kathy will email the names

suggested thus far to the Management Committee for further consideration and additional suggestions. It was suggested that "Colfax" would offer description of location. Recreation, preserve, park as part of the name were suggested.

4. Next meeting on site:

It was agreed to meet on the property for our July management committee meeting.

5. No public was present for the meeting to give comments.

6. Agenda for the July meeting:

- a. Gate location
- b. Recommended name for property
- c. Invasive plant control
- d. Kayak/canoe launch site viewing and handicapped fishing pier site

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:02