

**TOWN OF ALGOMA  
WINNEBAGO COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
MINUTES FOR  
SPECIAL PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 6:30 PM  
Algoma Town Hall  
15 N. Oakwood Road, Oshkosh, WI 54904

**1. Call to Order.**

The Special Meeting of the Parks Committee was called to order by Vice-Chair Henry Sampson at 7:10 PM.

**2. Roll Call.**

Kristine Timm - Excused

Sue Rehder – Excused

Mark Kainz

Henry Sampson

Joel Rasmussen

Dewey Nelson

Peter Cernohous - Excused

**3. Meet with the Planning Commission to discuss partnering with Sheldon Nature Area Committee to place town owned parcel 002-0124-33, the north entrance to Sheldon Nature Area, into a land trust, a perpetual easement, or remain as currently owned.**

Clerk Nelson explained there was supposed to be a presentation from John Walsh of the Sheldon Nature Area about partnering together to put nature area into a land trust. This joint meeting was supposed to be an informational presentation to both the Planning Commission and the Parks Committee in order for them to make a recommendation to the Town Board as to call a Meeting of the Electors or not. Mr. Walsh was not in attendance of the meeting because of a communication issue. There is no urgency to put nature area into a land trust; the only urgency is that the Sheldon Nature Area would like to proceed with the school district on this issue.

This issue was brought forth to the Town Board at their December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting. Mr. Walsh did a brief presentation on what a land trust is. Prior to the Town Board taking any action, this issue has to be brought forth to a Meeting of the Electors because it involves town owned property. Members of Planning Commission in attendance of this Town Board meeting thought this issue should be brought to both Planning Commission and Parks Committee prior to the Town Board calling a Meeting of the Electors since there was little or no information on what this means for the town. It appears this land trust was going to keep the Sheldon Nature Area in its natural state for perpetuity. Thompson did a “google” search on land trusts, and through his search, believes there wouldn’t be any advantage to the town by putting this land into a land trust. Thompson’s conclusion is that it could be a disadvantage.

The parcel owned by the town is the access off of Sheldon Drive. There was discussion on the ownership of this parcel as well as what parcels that make up the Sheldon Nature Area. Specifically in question is where the property line between the Sheldon Nature Area and Oakwood School lays. Also, there was some confusion as to specifically what parcels were going to be included in this land trust.

Approved at the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Parks Committee Meeting.

There needs to be more information on why the town should consider putting the Sheldon Nature Area into a land trust. Neither committee had any knowledge of this issue. Kainz did mention that the Sheldon Nature Area Committee was looking into putting the land into a land trust at a previous meeting during public forum, but that was just to inform the Parks Committee that the town may be approached sometime in the future.

Motion by Sampson/Nelson to table the discussion on the placing the Sheldon Nature into the a land trust. No further discussion. Motion carried in a voice vote, 4-0.

**4. Adjourn.**

Motion by Sampson/Nelson to adjourn. No further discussion. Motion carried in a voice vote, 4-0. The Special Meeting of the Parks Committee was adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Nelson, WCMC  
Algoma Town Clerk  
Town of Algoma, Winnebago County, WI