

**Town of Barnes Tourism Committee meeting
Monday, August 24, 2015 8:30 am.
Barnes Town Office, Barnes, WI**

Members present: Barb Romstad, Mike Tremblay, Julie Bohl, Carol LeBreck, Melissa Scully, PJ Foat, Dana Hodowanic (present starting at 9:30 am)

Also present: Bruce Hanson, Susan Pagnucci

Not present: Tom Krob - alternate

8:36 am Chair Julie Bohl called the meeting to order

1. Verification of public notice/quorum established

Julie verified public notice had been posted per state statutes. Julie conducted a roll call of the members present to establish a quorum; quorum established.

2. Agenda and July 27, 2015 minutes approval

PJ made a motion to approve the agenda as posted and also the minutes from the July 27, 2015 meeting, Mike second; motion carried.

3. Creation of a Facebook page for the Town of Barnes

Melissa Scully volunteered to create and manage the official Facebook page for the Town of Barnes. Some discussion took place as to the content and benefits of having such a site. The committee asked Melissa to put together an outline of what the content would be for the site. The committee will review Melissa's proposal at the next meeting.

4. Welcome to Barnes signs on Highway 27

Barnes resident, Mike Palmquist had brought the poor condition of the *Welcome to Barnes* sign to the attention of Tom Krob, offering to repaint the sign. The sign to which he is referring is the one on the east side of HWY 27, just north of the Decoy Inn. He will repaint the sign at no charge if the Town of Barnes will pay for the materials. Barb made motion to have up to \$200 of the budgeted signage funds available to Mike to pay for the paint, Julie second; motion carried.

5. Election of Tourism Committee chair and officers

Julie Bohl nominated PJ Foat for the position of Tourism Committee chair, Melissa Scully second. Call for any other nominations. None noted. PJ agreed to accept the nomination provided Julie would continue in the position of chair through September 30, 2015; Julie agreed. Julie called for the vote, PJ was elected chair.

The position of Vice-Chair/Co-Chair was discussed. Barb indicated she would be interested in serving as vice-chair; however, someone would have to take over the position of secretary. Melissa was asked if she would be willing to fill the Secretary role; she indicated she wasn't interested. Melissa indicated she would be interested in being vice-chair. PJ Foat nominated Melissa Scully for vice-chair, Julie second. Carol LeBreck nominated Barb for the position

of vice-chair; Barb refused the nomination indicating she did not want to force a vote between two members of the committee. Julie called for the vote; Melissa Scully was voted vice-chair of the Tourism Committee.

The group asked Barb if she would continue in her position as Tourism Committee Secretary for a year with the term starting October 1st, replacing the current term which would end February, 2016. Mike nominated Barb for position of Tourism Committee Secretary, Melissa second. Julie called for the vote; Barb was elected to the newly defined term of Tourism Committee Secretary, which will run from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

Barb questioned whether we needed to also elect a Treasurer. After a brief discussion PJ nominated Barb for the combined position of Secretary/Treasurer, Melissa second. Julie called for the vote; Barb was elected to the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the Tourism Committee.

6. Vatten Paddlar 2016

Barb briefly reviewed the results of the August 21 meeting with the Vatten Paddlar volunteer team captains. Mike Tremblay, representing the Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club, Bill Pence representing the Barnes Christian Men, Lee Wiesner representing the FOECLA and Cris Neff representing the local Boy Scout Troop all indicated their organizations would support a race in 2016. While some changes in race structure would have to be approved by the Tourism Committee most of the suggested changes to the race logistics could be decided by the volunteer group managing the element of the race to which the suggestion applied. The committee briefly discussed the date of the race. Julie made a motion to ask the TOB board to approve hosting the Vatten Paddlar on July 9, 2016, PJ second; motion carried.

7. Boating and Water Safety

Julie distributed a letter written to the Tourism Committee concerning the town's water ski ordinance. PJ gave some background of the event that prompted the writing of the letter. He indicated that a person came into his store upset that she had been approached and scolded by a kayaker after 5:00 pm on Middle Eau Claire for being on the lake with jet skis after the curfew. PJ advised the person that the Tourism Committee would be interested in hearing about the encounter and the person's dissatisfaction with the water ski ordinance. After speaking with PJ she wrote a letter about the incident to the Tourism Committee. PJ indicated he felt it was a problem and he called the Bayfield County law enforcement to see if a person engaging in the manner in which the kayaker approached the jet ski owner could be charged with harassment. He expressed the belief that the ordinance was interfering with tourism growth.

Barb objected to the discussion/debate of the water ski ordinance, as well as other town ordinances, laws, Bayfield County zoning issues and DNR policies, within the Tourism Committee. She felt citizen complaints about such items should be referred to the governing bodies that can deal with them; discussing them during the Tourism Committee meeting is not helpful and gives the impression that the committee will take a stance on such issues, thus inviting future public input. She stated that she will resign from the committee if such issues, which she considers political, are debated in Tourism Committee meetings. Julie

indicated that she had consulted with Tom Krob and they decided that it was appropriate to discuss the ordinance within the committee. A discussion followed.

8. Rerouting Snowmobile Trail

Mike Tremblay showed the group a map that has a proposed alternate route for a snowmobile trail north of Barnes. Bayfield County has purchased a large tract of land across which a snowmobile route could be placed, providing access to county forestland. The new route would help route snowmobiles off some of the roads. The Committee thanked Mike for his work on finding a resolution for the route(s).

9. Tomahawk Park Trails

Julie indicated Tom had asked to have this topic placed on the agenda and she thought it was concerning a possible storage building at Tomahawk Park. Tom was unable to attend the meeting to offer insight. Barb distributed the article she had prepared for the September Barnes Blog encouraging interest citizens to volunteer to assist in planning the trail upgrade project. She also shared an “example” of the kind of trail map that would be appropriate for the park trail system. Susan Pagnucci expressed an interest in what the “next step is” to get the project going.

10. Next meeting date – Monday, September 28, 2015, 8:30 am Barnes Town Office

11. Motion to adjourn

Carol made a motion to adjourn, Dana second; adjourned.

The August 24, 2015 meeting of the TOB Tourism Committee adjourned at 10:30 am.