

VILLAGE OF PLOVER
SPRINGVILLE POND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
July 12th, 2023
5:00pm

Members Present: Jason Nafe, Sherri Galle-Teske, Kristina Smith, Al Haga, and Mike Kochinski

Members Excused: Michael Hom

Members Unexcused: Adam Raabe

Others Present: Dominique Swangstu, Tracy Arnold (Portage County), Steve Kunst, Gary Wolf, and Adam Dekleyn

1. Call to order

Mr. Swangstu called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and asked the Committee to vote for a temporary chair for the meeting in the absence of Mr. Raabe.

Ms. Smith volunteered as chair, motion was made by Mr. Haga to accept the nomination, seconded by Mr. Kochinski.

Mr. Swangstu turned the meeting over to Ms. Smith for the remainder of the meeting.

2. Approval of the last meeting minutes (June 7th, 2023)

Ms. Smith called for a motion to approve the minutes, motion was made by Mr. Haga and was seconded by Mr. Nafe.

3. Introductions and Welcome

Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

4. Go to Public Hearing – Review of the 2023 Springville Pond Management Plan (SPMP)

Mr. Swangstu read the public hearing notice provided in the packet and posted in accordance with state law. After reading the notice Mr. Swangstu gave Mrs. Smith some options on how the committee could conduct the public hearing, ultimately deciding to have the committee members provide comment prior to opening it up to the public in attendance.

Mr. Swangstu went through the staff report and had indicated this is the second time the committee has seen the full draft plan and provided comments regarding possible next steps when and if the committee and Village Board approves the plan as presented.

The committee provided their comments and concerns regarding the ponds current condition and identified the need to update the plan so funding can become available, and action items can be implemented as soon as possible. Mr. Swangstu asked that those in attendance whom wish to speak during the public hearing state their name and address for the record.

Ms. Smith opened up the hearing for public input:

Yakoub Baba (2530 Springville Drive) – Mr. Baba provided comments regarding the ponds condition, smell, and abundance of aquatic plants and algae as well as provided some background regarding what a community had done to improve their lake/pond in lola, WI. He stated the pond is nearly

unusable and asked how the plan works and what the timeline would be to implement activities to improve the pond.

Mr. Swangstu responded to Mr. Baba regarding his questions and concerns and reassured him that the first step of the process is to adopt an updated plan so state and federal grants become available as well as discussed possible timelines, activities, permitting, and considerations that will need to be addressed. There will be variability regarding the anticipated timeline for improvements given any action would be conditioned on the committee's recommendations and funding.

Josh Winter (2330 Heaherton Lane) – Mr. Winter asked if the plan included actionable items and indicated he did not read the whole plan yet, provided some background regarding another body of water in Wisconsin and the possibility of using the same company and chemicals to address and treat the pond for algae. Mr. Winter indicated he was less concerned about the fish but wanted focus on water quality. He asked if the committee could tap into parks funding to address the pond this year rather than wait till 2024-2025 given the ponds condition, stating he pays property taxes and thinks it should be addressed.

Mr. Swangstu and the committee addressed Mr. Winters questions regarding if there are specific action items included within the plan. Staff and the committee pointed out a few areas of the plan addressing the specific actions related to water quality and the algae. Mr. Kunst provided input regarding the previous funding processes and reminded those at the meeting this public hearing is for the draft plan and should not be too specific to address possible improvements included in the plan. Mr. Kunst indicated that the Village of Plover understands Springville Pond has become a priority to make improvements. Mr. Swangstu and the committee again stated the anticipated timeline for improvements is dependent on the committee's recommendations, funding, etc. and the first step is to adopt the plan.

Don Bachleitner (2721 Rainbow Drive) – Mr. Bachleitner provided comments stating that the situation is not unique to Springville Pond and noted McDill Pond is similar and there are things that can be done to make improvements. He stated he believes he is paying a lot in property taxes and it doesn't appear any of it is going to the pond.

Ms. Arnold (Portage County) provided input and comments regarding the differences between Springville Pond and McDill Pond and the funding sources. She indicated McDill pond has a "Lake District" which has special assessments established on properties along the pond to help pay for projects, yet the lake district has taken out loans and has expended a lot of funds to make the improvements that are ongoing. She had indicated staff have already reached out to the DNR and other entities regarding the weed problems and reassured Mr. Bachleitner that there are options available but staff and the committee need to take one step at a time.

Mariann Ferrin (2530 Springville Drive) – Ms. Ferrin provided comments regarding funding and asked why funds from the taxes are not going to the pond specifically. Ms. Ferrin asked about how funding and special assessments work for the pond projects and how the cost could be placed on the properties along the pond. She also asked what entity is legally responsible for the pond and ponds quality.

Mr. Kunst provided information regarding how taxes work and how taxing districts operate given they are intended for the whole community not a specific neighborhood. He provided context for what has been done in the past yet the taxes that have been brought up during the meeting is not unusual it is

common throughout the Village given it is based off the property values. Mr. Kunst again indicated that once the dam reconstruction project is finalized, practices can be implemented given they have been on hold for the duration of the project. The funding sources are variable depending on the scope of the project, yet in the past (1983) for a large dredging project the property owners were responsible for a portion of the costs given they have a direct benefit. Mr. Kunst indicated there is no entity that would be legally responsible for the quality of the pond beyond the State and Federal regulations. The Village has no legal responsible to make improvements in the pond, yet understand it is an asset and should be addressed.

Mr. Haga provided comments regarding how the pond has been used and indicated he is surprised the pond isn't any worse given it hasn't been addressed in the last eight (8) years. There are options to make improvements in the pond such as looking at park funding and stated the updated pond management plan and the overall Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan update can be used to obtain grant funding and identify priorities.

Ms. Galle-Teske provided comments regarding her experience with the pond and stated it has had highs and lows, and this is indeed a low, but the committee and Village are on the right path to make improvements.

Mr. Kochinski provided comments regarding the new road reconstruction and expressed appreciation for the road project and understands there are actions that need to be taken to improve the pond moving forward.

Kevin Gardner (2720 Springville Drive) – Mr. Gardner asked the committee if there was any funding that was set aside from the road reconstruction and dam project (Post Road) to help remediate the damages to the pond that has resulted from the project.

Mr. Kunst commented that no money was set aside for the pond itself after the project was completed yet these projects and the impacts would be a great reasoning and should strengthen any grant application with the DNR or other entities. He thanked Mr. Gardner for his comments and for the suggestions given there is good resonating for including the dam reconstructions impact on the pond in any future grant proposals.

Ms. Smith asked if there was anyone else who would like to speak during the public hearing and there were no other comments.

Mr. Haga made the motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Ms. Galle-Teske, the motion of which was passed unanimously by a vote of the committee.

5. Reconvene for possible discussion and consideration of the 2023 Springville Pond Management Plan

Mr. Swangstu indicated there was an error in the plan and asked that any recommendation of approval should included a motion that would correct the error, stating in Goal 6, the vegetation standards should be assessed between Post Road and Hoover Ave rather than Post Road and County Road R.

Mr. Haga made a motion to approve the draft plan with the amendment, motion seconded by Ms. Galle-Teske. The motion of which was passed unanimously by a vote of the committee.

6. Future Meetings, Communication, and Notices

- a. Village Website – Information and Materials
- b. Future agenda items
- c. Next meeting date/time (TBD)

Staff indicated if there are any comments, questions, or suggestions related to pond improvements and next steps they can reach out to any of the Village staff, committee members, or Tracy Arnold with Portage County. Mr. Swangstu also reminded the general public that if anyone wanted to be included on the email list for future Springville Pond meetings and correspondence they should see him after the meeting.

7. Adjournment subject to call of the chair

Ms. Smith motioned and Mr. Haga seconded to adjournment at 5:55 p.m.

Submitted by Dominique Swangstu