

July 7, 2011

TOWN BOARD

Chair

Anthony Varda, 798-9999

Supervisors

Don Witmer-Kean, 798-0883

Chris Upper, 798-2286

Jim Laubmeier, 798-1235

Bill Carlson, 798-3898

TOWN OFFICE

Brenda Kahl, Clerk/Treasurer

9046 State Road 19

Mazomanie, WI 53560

767-4152

Fax: 767-3015

Hours: 7:30 – 4:30, except

Wednesday 7:00 – 11:00

Email: twnberry@chorus.net

Web: www.townofberry.org

TOWN GARAGE

Orlin Danz, Patrolman

767-3308 (Cell) 444-0359

Hours: 7:00 – 3:30

FIRE WARDENS

Brenda Kahl

767-4152, during office hours

Mike Diebold

798-3000

Anthony Varda

798-9999

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Dean Eppler

Independent Inspections, Ltd.

(800) 422-5220

Town Hall Hours: Fridays, 10:30-11:30

DANE COUNTY SHERIFF

255-2345, Non Emergency

LEGAL NOTICE POSTING LOCATIONS

Festge Park, DH Repair, Town Hall

REPORT FROM THE ROSEMARY GARFOOT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Many library patrons have become aware that our library, and the entire South Central Library System, have a new automated system that replaces the 17-year-old system providing location and check-out of books. Head Librarian Pam Bosben tells us that the start up of this system, requiring intensive staff training, went well, and the company providing the system has been responsive to the South Central Library System automation staff in promptly fixing problems identified by the staff. However, on April 22nd, the new automated system became unavailable when Amazon, the host site, went down. The Amazon outage affected numerous companies throughout the United States.

The recent Arts Tribe exhibit made from recycled books and printed papers interested and amused recent library users. The traveling exhibit has brought extra visitors who came to see the traveling art exhibit and stayed to admire the library's beauty and green features.

As for the Library's economic future, it depends on County and Village support. Municipal support is affected by the law of Maintenance of Effort that states that the library's municipality is required to support the library at the level of no less than the average of the last three years. Removal of the Maintenance of Effort requirement is currently in the proposed State Budget. There is a possibility that legislators will seek removal of this component of the budget and give our library a more assured financial future.

Charity Hirsch, Town of Berry representative to the Rosemary Garfoot Library Board

BERRY BREAKFAST BRUNCH

The Berry Breakfast Bunch (BBB) will gather July 9 at 9:00 a.m. at the Luckenbooth Cafe in Black Earth. As always Berry residents and neighbors are invited. Friends and guests are always welcome to enjoy this Dutch treat social event on the second Saturday of each month. Join with neighbors to share spontaneous conversations plus lots of laughs without any agenda, expectations or work.

Karen Upper

ACT9 PASSING THROUGH BERRY

The AIDS Network of south central Wisconsin is conducting a bicycle tour August 4 through 7. The purpose of this ride is to raise awareness of AIDS and to provide funds for the prevention of AIDS and care for AIDS patients in our area of the state. This year, the course winds its way through the Town of Berry on August 4th. The riders will enter Berry on Martinsville Rd, continue onto Indian Trail, to Hwy K, to Schuman Rd, and then travel on Spring Valley Rd until they leave the town on the west side. As this ride is a tour and not a race, riders will be passing through as individuals or small groups, not as a single group, so the time they pass through Berry is not predictable. If you plan on traveling any of the roads listed in their route on Aug 4, please exercise caution and consider altering your route.

To learn more about the ride, visit the ACT9 website at <http://www.actride.org/>.
AIDS Network, Christine Molling

HELP WITH BERRY PRAIRIE CARE – JULY AND AUGUST

Controlled burns and invasive plant control are the primary management practices required to care for a prairie. Both practices have been done on the Berry Prairie this year.

On June 18 a number of Berry residents attended a volunteer work day. The primary work completed was to control poison parsnip and reed canary grass. A controlled burn was completed in May.

Two additional Saturday morning work parties are planned for invasives control at the prairie. On July 16 and August 13 from 9-11am, Paul Boutwell will lead interested participants in control work. Bring gloves and a water bottle, and wear long shirts and pants. Paul will identify the plants of concern and mechanical control methods will be practiced. Weeding shovels will be available. The primary plants of concern are reed canary grass, wild parsnip, queen anne's lace, thistle and chicory.

Paul has worked with the Berry Prairie from the initial planning stages. He also manages other restored prairies. Some time each morning will be available for identification of prairie plants, or discussing the process of prairie establishment.
Bill Carlson

ELIMINATING WILD PARSNIP

Wisconsin's fields are being invaded by nonnative plants. These nasty invaders out-compete native vegetation and generally aren't eaten by stock or wildlife. Currently blooming in our area now is Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*). Although this is just a naturalized version of the edible parsnip, it has one very bad characteristic: if you get the plant's sap on your skin, and the sun hits it, you will get photodermatitis - a rash or blisters. The rash and blisters itch and can take a long time to heal, possibly leaving brown scars.

Wild parsnip starts as a rosette of leaves with paired, toothed leaflets. In June and July, mature plants send up a flower stalk up to 5ft, with tiny yellow-green flowers arrayed in flat sprays. The plants overwinter, so they will remain green late in fall and will green-up early in spring.

The plant spreads through seed, so be sure to eliminate it before it goes to seed. Remember, don't get the sap on your skin! Wear long pants, sleeves, and gloves. Cut the plant below ground level with a sharp shovel, or for larger populations, use a brush cutter right after bloom, remove all the cut material, and repeat this treatment a few weeks later. Spot treatment with glyphosate may also be used – repeated treatments are often needed. If you want to harvest the roots, the best time to dig them is late fall and early spring, when they are sweet and less woody.

WI DNR, UW Extension, Christine Molling



Photos: WIDNR

REI FESTGE PARK UPDATE

Dane County Park’s volunteers with the help of REI volunteers and Town of Berry residents cleared and burned brush at Festge Park on Saturday June 4, 2011. The volunteers removed a half an acre of buckthorn and woody vegetation cut by Dane County Parks volunteers two weeks leading up to the brush clean-up day. This marks the beginning of a volunteer conservation effort to restore the natural oak savanna, prairie and wetland habitat found on the park’s one hundred and sixty acres.

Town of Berry residents hosted a bratwurst cookout for the volunteers. In a show of support from Berry and Cross Plains merchants, Shelton’s Bar and Grill, The Crossroads Coffee House, The Shoe Box, Rookies, Heiney’s, and Piggly Wiggly donated items and discount coupons for area products. Black Earth Meat Market donated brats for the cookout event.

The Town of Berry Board issued a resolution recognizing the efforts by Gary Nelson and Bob Rundle for initiating the restoration project in the fall of 2010.



Piling and burning buckthorn

BERRY BACKYARD CLUB

June was busy. We had great fun catching tadpoles at Kahl Park one chilly evening-thanks to Steve Richter and Jeremiah Yahn.

The Rettenmund Prairie evening hike with Prairie Enthusiast leaders Kathie and Tom Brock was simply gorgeous.

AND, if you were not able to attend the 2nd (!) Annual BBC garden tour and potluck picnic you missed a very good time. The weather was

kind, the gardens and vineyards were GORGEOUS, and the camaraderie and picnic afterwards were terrific. We sat eating and talking until it was too dark to see each other!

Heartfelt thanks to generous hosts Robin and Mike Nyffeler, Vera and John Dallman, and Tracy Thaden. Your gardens and vineyards looked amazing, and we all know that means a lot of work. Take a bow and the rest of the summer off-you're done!

July 24th: Day on the Farm

Our own TOB Dreamfarm on Table Bluff is hosting brunch and tours of their goat/sheep rearing and cheese making. A fabulous opportunity to support our very own local artisanal cheese producers!

Tickets available at:

<http://www.reapfoodgroup.org/buy-fresh-buy-local-campaign/day-on-the-farm>

Jane Varda



Robin and Mike Nyffeler’s gardens



JUNE 20 TOWN BOARD MINUTES SUMMARY

(A summary of the minutes not yet approved by the Town Board.) Members present: Anthony Varda, Chris Upper, Jim Laubmeier, Bill Carlson and Don Witmer-Kean

Dane County Sheriff Department

Deputy Josalyn Longley was present. Calls of service for 2011 was handed out. The arrangements between the sheriffs office and bike rides was discussed.

Re speed limit reduction to 35 mph on Table Bluff Road

The board approved contacting MSA to see if a relatively simple traffic engineering study could be done to justify a lower speed limit and see if MSA would be willing to do it at a price of not more than \$1,500. Vote 5-0

Revise Driveway, Field Road, and Right-of-way Ordinance 301.1

The board amended Section V (I) to read as follows "Easements. Where the right to install or use a driveway or any segment of a driveway is granted by easement, such grant shall convey rights adequate to building and maintaining a driveway conforming with this ordinance." Vote 4-1. In favor: Varda, Carlson, Laubmeier, Witmer-Kean
Opposed: Upper

Rezone

Tim & Linda Hook's, 5507 Niesen Rd, rezone of 5.7 acres from A1-ex to RH-1 to create two lots was approved. Vote 5-0

Re inspecting site at 6127 Old Settlers Road by Town Building Inspector

The board approved hiring Independent Inspections with their associated costs to inspect the property at 6127 Old Settlers Road against the Town's Public Nuisance Ordinance 209.1. Vote 5-0

Appointed Megan Hines to the Computer – Web Committee. Vote 5-0

Amendment 4, 2011-12, Amending Chapter 10 of the Dane County Code of Ordinances, Regarding Accessory Structures was approved and include

these two comments on the town board action report, 1) The restrictions on bathrooms in accessory buildings is too restrictive and 2) It may be too restrictive and may create a hardship for cash grain farmers or other farms to not allow buildings such as equipment sheds on parcels that do not have a residence. Vote 5-0

A cycle road event permit for Act 9 – The Wisconsin Aids Ride on August 4 was approved. Vote 5-0

Re hiring Charles Schaeffer as a part-time snow plow driver

The board approved putting Charles Schaeffer on the list as an approved part-time snow plow driver for the upcoming season. Vote 5-0

Revised fuel tank budget

The board approved \$15,000 for the fuel tank budget and to use money from the Highway Operating Contingency Fund. Vote 5-0

Committee Reports

*Cross Plains Fire District: \$15,000 balance left in 2010 will go into 2011 budget; a cell tower company contacted them about leasing space

*Cross Plains-Berry EMS: Discussed snow removal; capital purchases of the fire alarm system and defibrillator project for 2011; and property lease agreement with the Village of Cross Plains

*Parks Committee: June 4 Festge Park cleanup occurred; next Parks meeting will be in September

*District 1 EMS: New ambulance deliver is delayed; received a grant for radios

*Highway Supervisor: Another field road culvert will be installed on Far View Road; manure wagons destroyed a culvert on Schuman Road; deep crack in road bed on South Valley Road was fixed

*Dane County Zoning Meeting on revised Comprehensive Plan: Tony Varda and Chris Upper attended; steep slope portion was discussed; will need to attend another meeting

*Communications Committee: Reviewing who is an active member of the committee; new deadlines for article submissions were set

Future Agenda Items

*Discuss/approve a town logo

*Review the shared driveway agreement portion of the driveway ordinance

*Revise the Public Comments instructions on agendas

Adjourn: 9:44 pm

Brenda Kahl

GARBAGE PICK-UP SCHEDULE

Monday, July 11 - Garbage and Recyclables

Monday, July 18 - Garbage Only

Monday, July 25 - Garbage and Recyclables

Monday, Aug 1 - Garbage Only

TOWN OF BERRY BOARD MEETING

July 18, 2011, 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 9046 Hwy. 19, Mazomanie, WI 53560

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approve minutes of June 20, 2011
3. Public Comments: You may address the Board on any item not on the agenda. A discussion item may be placed on a future agenda. Public comment may be heard on any agenda item marked with an asterisk (*) or at the discretion of the Town Chair.
4. Discussion/action re inspection report on 6127 Old Settlers Rd by Town Building Inspector
5. Discussion re speed limit reduction to 35 mph on Table Bluff Road
6. Discussion/action on the Cross Plains-Berry Fire District Building Use Resolution
7. Discussion/action re an employee grievance procedure
8. Discussion/action/status report on creation of a personnel and policy manual
9. Discuss/approve a town logo
10. Discussion/action/review the shared driveway agreement portion of the driveway ordinance
11. Budgetary Matters
 - A. Payment of bills
12. Committee reports/Correspondence/Communications
 - A. Fire Districts
 - B. EMS Districts
 - C. Other
13. Discussion of future agenda items
14. Adjourn

Persons requiring additional services to participate in a public meeting should contact the Town Clerk at the Town Hall, 9046 Hwy 19, Mazomanie, WI 53560. 767-4152 twnberry@chorus.net

As of July 14, 2011 the final agenda will be posted on the website and the town's three posting locations. The board attempts to finalize the agenda prior to the distribution of the newsletter.

EMERALD ASH BORER

The Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), an invasive, wood-boring beetle that attacks ash trees, was positively identified for the first time in Wisconsin in August 2008. The beetle and beetle larvae were found at a private home in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is an invasive wood boring beetle that feeds on the tissues under the bark of ash trees (*Fraxinus spp*) and kills them. The metallic green beetle is native to East Asia and was accidentally imported to the United States within the wood of shipping crates from China. EAB was first discovered in North America near Detroit, Michigan in 2002. Since then the beetle has spread to several eastern and midwestern states, including Wisconsin.

The larva (the immature stage of EAB) spends its life inside ash trees, feeding on the inner bark where we cannot see it. This feeding disrupts the

trees' ability to transport water and nutrients, causing the tree to starve and eventually die.

On its own, the beetle will only fly a few miles. However, it is easily and quickly transported to new areas when people inadvertently move emerald ash borer larvae inside of infested firewood, ash nursery stock, and other ash items.

A tree that has been attacked by EAB can die within 2-4 years. It is estimated that more than 50 million ash trees are dead or dying in the Midwest because of this insect.

Wisconsin forests contain more than 770 million ash trees, nearly 7 percent of the tree population. In urban areas, we estimate that ash make up, on average, 20 percent of trees.

For current information on emerald ash borer in Wisconsin please visit the Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Information Source.
WI DNR

CALENDAR

All meetings are at the Town Hall, 9046 Hwy 19, Mazomanie, unless otherwise noted.

July 2011	
Monday, July 11, 7:00 pm	Middleton - Cross Plains Area Board of Education Meeting, District Admin. Center
Monday, July 11, 7:00 pm	District 1 EMS, Membership Meeting, Black Earth Fire Station
Monday, July 11, 7:30 pm	Wisconsin Heights School District Board of Education, Middle School Auditorium
Thursday, July 14, 7:00 pm	Communications Committee Meeting
Monday, July 18, 7:30 pm	Town Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 20, 7:30 pm	Good Neighbor Meeting, location to be announced
Saturday, July 23, 7:30 am	Plan Commission Site Visits, on location
Monday, July 25, 7:00 pm	Middleton - Cross Plains Area Board of Education Meeting, District Admin. Center
Monday, July 25, 7:30 pm	Wisconsin Heights School District Board of Education, Middle School Auditorium
August 2011	
Monday, Aug 1, 7:30 pm	Plan Commission Meeting
Monday, Aug 8, 7:00 pm	Middleton - Cross Plains Area Board of Education Meeting, District Admin. Center
Monday, Aug 8, 7:00 pm	District 1 EMS, Membership Meeting, Mazomanie Public Safety Building
Monday, Aug 8, 7:30 pm	Wisconsin Heights School District Board of Education, Middle School Auditorium
Thursday, Aug 11, 7:00 pm	Communications Committee Meeting
Monday, Aug 15, 7:30 pm	Town Board Meeting
Wednesday, Aug 17, 7:30 pm	Good Neighbor Meeting, location to be announced
Saturday, Aug 20, 7:30 am	Plan Commission Site Visits, on location
Monday, Aug 22, 7:00 pm	Middleton - Cross Plains Area Board of Education Meeting, District Admin. Center
Monday, Aug 22, 7:30 pm	Wisconsin Heights School District Board of Education, Middle School Auditorium

This calendar is advisory only. Consult the *News Sickle Arrow* or the 3 legal posting locations for legal notices.



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