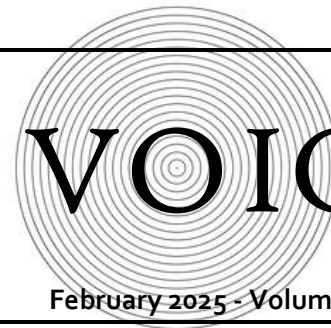


The VILLAGE VOICE

"The Official Publication of the Village Board"
FREE to Every Family in Merrimac



February 2025 - Volume 50, Issue 10

Draft minutes of the Parks & Recreation Meeting February 6, 2025

Item 1: Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Parks and Recreation Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Chairperson Nate Taylor at 7:00pm. Committee members Amy Buck, Tim Klecker, Jennifer Thompson and June Krbecek were present. Also in attendance were Administrator Jennie Klecker, and members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet. Chairperson Taylor examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2: Public Input: None

Item 3: Discuss spring plans for Sunrise Shore Park:

The committee discussed options for creating a natural barrier between Sunrise Shore Park and Bob Garrison's adjoining property, such as planting Arbor Vita or native Wisconsin trees or shrubbery. Taylor recommended that Mr. Garrison seek quotes to bring to the Village Board for final approval. Spring priorities include; brush cleanup, filling in low spots, invasive vine and weed control, and planting grass seed. The shoreline will need to be addressed as ice heaving has caused the shoreline to be pushed up onto land. Taylor will check with DNR for a riprap permit, measure the shoreline, and provide quotes to the Village Board for approval to repair. Work also needs to be done to taper the hill or create a path that is ADA compliant. At their next meeting, the committee will set several work days to complete tasks at Sunrise Shore Park. The work dates will be posted so anyone from the community can volunteer to join.

Item 4: Estimates for second pavilion and electric at Memorial Park:

The committee is exploring the idea of adding a second pavilion at Memorial Park, west of the horseshoe pits. Initial plans include installing a 30' x 30' concrete slab with a wood framed, metal roof pavilion, with electrical and water trenched in. Taylor has

submitted several requests for quotes and will provide updates when they come in. They also discussed the possibility of adding additional parking stalls in the future. The group explored fundraising and donation ideas to help offset the costs.

Item 5: Ball Park ideas and alternatives:

The committee discussed converting the Ball Park into a space that could be better utilized by more of the community. Outside of Little League season, the park sees little use. Brainstorming ideas included installing a Splash Pad, Pickle Ball courts, additional parking, relocating the horseshoe pits, wiffle ball, or creating a walking path around the perimeter. The concessions and bathrooms are there already, so it makes sense to keep the infrastructure and make repairs. Understandably, there is sentimental attachment to the ball park that will need to be considered before any changes are made. The committee is not looking to make recommendations on this at this time, but having conversations about ideas is good.

The committee would like to earmark a couple of short-term and long-term project goals. Thompson read through the First Impressions report and identified some simple short-term projects that could be done that would cost very little to nothing to do. The new welcome signs look great but they could use some landscaping. Additional flower planter pots or whiskey barrels throughout the Village would look nice. There is a local young man working on an Eagle Scout project and is looking to build a wooden Welcome to Merrimac brochure display stand. Installing a second pavilion and parking at Memorial Park was highlighted as a long-term goal.

Item 6: Adjourn: At 8:27pm Buck/Klecker motioned to adjourn, All Ayes, Motion carried.

Draft minutes of the Village Board Meeting February 11, 2025

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Village President Andrew Gallus at 5:30pm. Village Trustees Margaret Budde, Nate Taylor, and Stan Senger were present. Also in attendance were DPW Justin Schultz, Administrator Jennie Klecker, and members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet. President Gallus examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Public Input: Kirk Olson suggested the Board consider lowering the minimum residential building floor space, which is currently set at 1,200 square feet, to allow for the construction of smaller homes and to make the Village more aligned with neighboring communities' regulations. Cheryl Anderson spoke on behalf of Green Merrimac to invite all residents to attend this month's "Friday Night Eco-Flicks," on February 21, 6:30PM at Village Hall. Collin Bourgeois spoke on behalf of the Plan Commission regarding the proposed 62ft height of the Colsac Lodge. After reviewing both Village code and state statutes, he believes the project does not meet the qualifications for a variance, rather, the appropriate action would be to either amend the Village's zoning ordinance to allow for a taller commercial structure, or ask for a redesign of the building that adheres to current Village zoning code. Rick and Ann Schmidt voiced concerns regarding the wording on a sign that the Village plans to install at the Weynand Road Public/Fire Rescue Lake Access point.

Item 3. Review Consent Agenda:

Senger/Taylor motioned to approve the consent agenda. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 4. Approval of Village Bills:

Budde/Gallus motioned to approve payment of outstanding monthly bills as listed on items 4.i.-4.iv. of the Agenda. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 5. Michelle Hopp: Badger Ammunition Plant Water Contamination

Clean Up Efforts: Village resident, Michelle Hopp, serves on the Restoration Advisory Board for the Badger Ammunition Plant. She gave a presentation on the contamination cleanup efforts that are currently being considered at the site. She explained that the ground water is full of contaminates, due to the US Army's disposal of toxic chemicals produced during the manufacturing of munitions that took place there during WW11 and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. With several cleanup options being explored, the Army has opened a public comment period for those wishing to contribute opinions.

Item 6. Green Merrimac Annual Report:

President of Green Merrimac, Bob Pfaff, gave the Board the group's Annual Report. The report highlighted the group's achievements, including the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" event, Earth Day Street Cleanup, continued energy audits at Village Hall, and receiving a 2024 Climate Champion Award. Future Green Merrimac goals include promoting and supporting a solar panel array installation at the WWTP, work toward receiving a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat Community Award, and continuing to educate and encourage village residents to use renewable energy and sustainable environmental practices for their home, property, and transportation.

Item 7. Parks & Recreation Report:

Trustee Taylor reported on the highlights from the Parks & Recreation meeting held on 2/6/2025. The group discussed options for planting a row of trees or bushes to create a natural barrier between Sun Rise Shore Park and the adjoining property owner. Funding for the barrier will be decided by the Village Board. Planning is underway for several cleanup days at the new park, with dates to be determined at the next meeting. Rip rap may need to be installed to help prevent damage from ice heaving on the shoreline. The group discussed the possibility of adding a second pavilion near the horseshoe pits at Memorial Park and explored ideas to repurpose the Ball Park.

Item 8. Report of the Director of Public

Works: DPW Schultz thanked the community for their assistance in helping to locate a large water leak that occurred last week. US Cellular is replacing equipment on the Water tower this week.

Item 9. Report of the Administrator:

9.a. Easland Public Access/Easement Update; Administrator Klecker received a response from the Village attorney, Rick Manthe, regarding the Easland Public Access dispute. In short, Mr. Manthe does not believe there is a clear answer as to ownership of the alley. He suggested the best resolution would be for the adjoining property owners to petition the Village to discontinue the alley. Grosse/Ripp Zoning Violation: Building within setback, no permit; Administrator Klecker informed the Board that an unlawful structure has been erected on the Gross/Ripp property. An additional garage stall was built without applying for a building permit. The structure also violates Village side yard setback ordinances. The Building Inspector conducted an onsite visit and issued a stop work notice. She will follow up by issuing a red tag fine and order to remove the structure.

Item 11. Adjourn: At 6:30pm, Budde/Senger motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennie Klecker

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Next Village Board Meeting
March 11, 2025
5:30 PM @ Village Hall

Next Parks & Recreation Meeting
March 6, 2025
7:00PM @ Village Hall

Next Green Merrimac Meeting
March 25, 2025
9:30am @ Village Hall
All interested village residents are welcome!

AA Meetings
Wednesday Evenings 7:00pm
@ Merrimac Village Hall - Questions?
Contact Chuck @ 608-795-0050

Recycling Pickup Dates:

March 3, 17, & 31

Winter Brush Pick-up Dates
March 12 & April 9

Spring Election
Tuesday, April 1st



Polls Open
7:00am – 8:00pm

Merrimac Village Hall
100 Cook Street

Need to register? Want to request an absentee ballot? Have questions?
Go to myvote.wi.gov
or call Village Hall @ 493-2122

Village Board Vacancy

Are you interested in serving the community by being a member of the Merrimac Village Board? Due to a recent vacancy, the Village is currently accepting letters of interest from Village residents to fill the remaining unexpired term of Village Trustee. The term of the appointment will expire April 21, 2026. Any interested Village resident, who is a minimum of 18 years old, a legal citizen of the United States, and is an eligible voter is hereby welcome to submit a letter of interest to be considered for the appointment. Please submit your application to Village Hall (100 Cook Street) no later than **March 3, 2025**.



Friday Night Eco-Chat

Friday, March 21

6:30pm at Village Hall

Green Merrimac kindly invites you to attend "The Breakdown on Composting," a discussion and live demonstration about home composting. We'll go over everything you need to know including: What is compost & composting, benefits, how to compost, and equipment & tools. This is an open discussion - Please come and share your composting experiences.

FREE OF CHARGE!

Popcorn & Lemonade will be served

Upcoming Environmental Events

*April 26th - Earth Day Street Cleanup

*May 1st, 2nd & 3rd - Merrimac

Community Wide Garage Sale Days

(More details in next Village Voice)

For Pollinators' Sake,



PROCRASTINATE!

As warm weather approaches, you may feel the urge to tackle outdoor chores, such as cleaning up last season's dried plant material. Experts suggest holding off until May to help protect butterflies, bees, and other helpful pollinators that overwinter in the dead leaves.

Green Merrimac and the Village of Merrimac Supports Low Mow May to help protect pollinators!



Volunteering with Pride, Side by Side

The Palmer family has always been committed to giving back to their community, with a strong interest in EMS and fire services. Moe, Andy, Greg, and Amanda have given a total of 55 years of service to Merrimac Fire and Rescue.



Greg, Andy, Amanda & Moe Palmer

After returning to the family farm in Merrimac in 2006, Andy took the first step by joining Fire and Rescue, with Moe following in 2007, Greg in 2012, and Amanda in 2016. All four have served in the *critically important* officer roles for an impressive total of 38 years. Andy continues his service as President of the Fire Commission.



Amanda & Moe practice EMS readiness with Leis & Justin

Is your family looking for ways to serve the community and to use your leadership skills? If so...

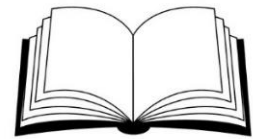
JOIN OUR TEAM

Merrimac Fire & Rescue



Open Book: April 10, 2025

2:00-4:00pm



Board of Review: May 6, 2025

1:00-3:00pm

@ Merrimac Village Hall

Short-Term Rentals

Thinking about renting your home on a short-term rental platform such as Airbnb or VRBO? You'll find everything you need to get started on the Village website. Look for "Short-Term Home Rental Permit" under the "Permits, Licenses & Forms" section to read the ordinance and fill out a Conditional Use Application. Have questions?

Call Village Hall or email merrimac@merrimacwi.gov and we'll be happy to walk you through it.

