

The VILLAGE VOICE

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FREE to Every Family in Merrimac

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Draft Minutes of the Parks & Recreation Meeting December 9, 2024

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 and Tim Klecker were present, with Jennifer Thompson and June Krbeczek absent. 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: Cheryl Anderson representing Green Merrimac shared that Green Merrimac was awarded the Climate Champion Award by Powered Up Baraboo at their annual meeting. A member of the public asked what the exact plan is for the public access area off Pacific. Taylor mentioned it would be discussed more in Item 4 of the agenda.

Item 3: Banner and Sign Design Feedback: The Committee discussed the design options that were presented. Committee likes the darker wood grain background with white lettering. The Parks and Rec committee discussed alternating between two banner designs for the light poles. For the banners, it was suggested that the word Merrimac be written vertically so it is easier to read (top to bottom). Chairperson Taylor will provide the Village Board with design feedback from the group. Cheryl voiced concern about parking for the Weynand Road access point as the street is narrow and about keeping the access open for the Fire Department to access their rescue boat. The sign will clarify what the access point can be used for. Taylor stated that the Village needs to be consistent with the signage for all access areas.

Item 4: Name Ideas for Pacific Road Public

Lake Access Area: Bob Garrison emailed inquiring about the planting of shrubs between the access and his property to create a natural green space barrier. In discussion from the public, it was brought up to be mindful of what gets planted as deer love to eat arborvitae. Klecker suggested planting native Wisconsin trees or shrubs and to stay away from invasive species. After some discussion, the committee agreed to name the area Sunrise Shore Park, after the name of the original development. The plan for 2024 was to clean, clear, and evaluate the area. So far it has been cleared with a mower, some fill was donated and spread, and trees/brush was put in to piles. At this time, the brush that is there needs to be removed so that grass can be planted in spring. More fill will need to be brought in to continue to decrease the slope of the hill. There are some dead trees that need to be removed along with the invasive vines, poison ivy/oak. A member of the public is concerned about the water run off that goes behind the condo building. Suggested having the current culvert cleaned out or replaced with a new one. Taylor suggested that his concern of the runoff be brought to the Village Board as well.

Item 5: Year End Recap: The committee got a good start in 2024. This spring, Chairperson Taylor will reach out to little league clubs to see what improvements they would like to see with the ball park. A couple ideas that surfaced were: adding lights, build more bleachers, update/upkeep the concession stand and dugouts. Research ways to bring more usage to the ball park. Parking is a need. The WISDOT land that was previously discussed would require the Village to pay for a special survey due to its protected classification as a potential Native American burial site. In 2025, the committee will explore areas of opportunity to create more public parking.

The only public parking lot in the Village is the Village Hall parking lot. Committee to identify what type of parking is needed and when (truck and trailer, community fest, activities at Memorial Park, etc. The group considered whether keeping the Ballpark is the best use of that land/space or if some other use would be a better fit. We want to continue to invest in young people and provide things for them to do.

Item 6: Budget Ideas: Memorial Park is the jewel and everything seems to be in good condition. The current shelter brings in revenue and is booked the majority of the summer. Chairperson Taylor brought up the idea of building another simple shelter with electric at the West end. This would double the opportunity for renting out that space. Parking is a concern but there might be space to add a small parking area with the shelter. Taylor and Klecker will research and collect quotes for what a shelter would cost. Klecker will reach out to Cleary Building Corporation for bids. Voll Park looks to need mulch refresh and confirmed it is in the budget for the spring. Any work that will be done at the public access off Pacific will be volunteer. In the spring there will be volunteer work to put in the donated pier. After discussion, the Parks and Rec committee will forgo a meeting in January and will circle back in February.

Item 7: Adjourn: At 8:33pm Klecker/Buck motioned to adjourn, All Ayes, Motion Carried.

Draft minutes of the Village Board Meeting December 10, 2024

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 5:33pm. Village Trustees Margaret Budde, Jim Malmberg, 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: George Naxera spoke to the board regarding the Sauk Prairie Ambulance Committee's plan to hire a staff of 8 licensed Paramedics in order to transport emergency patients to the hospital more quickly. He'll update the Board again in July when they begin to plan the budget. Cheryl Anderson spoke on behalf of Green Merrimac. She shared that Green Merrimac recently received a "Climate Change Champions" award from Powered Up Baraboo. The group was honored to receive recognition for their environmental efforts. Trustee Budde wanted to congratulate the Merrimac Festival Committee for a very successful fundraising total of about \$4k.

Item 3. Review Consent Agenda: Malmberg/Senger motioned to approve the consent agenda. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 4. Approval of Village Bills: Gallus/Taylor 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. Merrimac Snowbusters Trail Land Use Agreement: Gallus/Malmberg motioned to approve the land use agreement between the Village and the Snowbusters. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 6. Parks & Recreation Meeting Update: Trustee Taylor gave an update to the Board regarding the 12/9 Parks & Recreation meeting. The group met to discuss new park sign and banner designs and to talk about future 2025 Park projects. President Gallus asked Administrator Klecker to get a quote for installing a digital screen on the new proposed "Village Hall/Public Works Building" sign. She will report back to the Board with additional design modifications and final cost estimates. Trustee Taylor informed the Board that Bob Garrison is requesting that the Village allocate funds to purchase fast growing trees or shrubs to be planted as a buffer zone between his property and the newly cleared out public lake access area on Pacific Road. At this time, the Board has

not made any decisions about the next steps at the park.

Item 7. Robin Meier - Village Accountant: Year-End Recap: After a review of Village financials, Robin will work with Administrator Klecker to perform simple year-end journal entries and transfers. They discussed how to record several large donations the Village received that are restricted to fund a future municipal test well. Overall, the Village finances are strong and the reserves are properly funded. She will continue to work with the Village in 2025.

Item 8. Consider DRAFT Lease Agreement between the Village of Merrimac and Merrimac Fire & Rescue for the Old Fire Station Building at Memorial Park: Malmberg/Senger motioned to approve the DRAFT lease between the Village and Merrimac Fire & Rescue. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Item 9. Select January 2025 Caucus Date: Gallus/Taylor motioned to hold the January Caucus (for nominating candidates for Village Trustee and President) on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 9:00am at Merrimac Village Hall. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Item 10. Municipal Well No. 2 - Update: Trustee Senger summarized a recent meeting between representatives from the DNR, Bilskemper from Strand Associates, DPW Schultz, Administrator Klecker, and Trustees' Budde and Senger.

The meeting's purpose was to explore test site location options for a potential future Municipal Well No. 2 site. WIDNR has very strict setback rules that limit where new wells can be placed. The Board will continue to look into all Village well options and locations.

Item 11. WWTP Monitoring Well - Update: Strand has submitted a work plan for the WWTO Monitoring Well to the DNR. We should be hearing an update after the first of the year.

Item 12. LSL Inventory Violation and Future Requirements: The Village received a violation from the DNR relating to the new Lead Service Line project. The violation is administrative in nature and all residents will be notified of the issue via letter from the Village. Additional information will be posted at Village Hall, Post Office and Village website.

Item 13. Report of the Director of Public Works: 12.a. Lift Station 8; New pump is

installed at Lift Station 8. January 9th is the planned date to switchover the electrical at the Wellhouse.

Item 14. Report of the Administrator: 14.a. Approve 2025 Water & Sewer Budget. Taylor/Gallus motioned to approve the 2025 Water & Sewer Budget. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Item 15. Adjourn: At 7:27pm, Malmberg/Senger motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**
Respectfully Submitted,
Jennie Klecker

Jennie Klecker

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

VILLAGE CAUCUS FOR OFFICE

*******OF TRUSTEE &*******

*****VILLAGE PRESIDENT*****

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025

9:00AM @ VILLAGE HALL

Interested Village residents wishing to run for public office for the Village of Merrimac should plan to attend the **Village Caucus on Saturday, January 11, 2025, 9:00AM at Village Hall.** The Caucus process is used to secure nominations of candidates for Trustees' and Village President posts that will expire in April 2025. The Caucus is open to the public and Village residents are encouraged to participate. Immediately following the Caucus, Declaration of Candidacy forms and Campaign Registration Statements must be submitted to the Sauk County Clerk for candidates to appear on the official ballot at the April 1st, 2025 Spring Election. Please contact Village Administrator, Jennie Klecker if you have any questions. **(608) 493-2122**

Next Village Board Meeting

January 14, 2025

5:30 PM @ Village Hall

Plan Commission Meeting

January 13, 2025

5:30 PM @ Village Hall

Next Green Merrimac Meeting

January 7, 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:



January 6 & 20

Winter Brush Pick-up Dates

**January 15, February 12,
& March 12**

Green Merrimac Receives Recognition!



On December 5, Powered Up Baraboo, a prominent grassroots environmental group, gave their 2024 Climate Champion Awards. The awards are given to individuals and organizations that are taking responsibility to help protect our planet by advancing local efforts to conserve energy, use renewable energy or create sustainable green spaces. Pictured is Bob Pfaff, Green Merrimac chair person, receiving the award from Powered Up Baraboo president, Marianne Cotter. Pfaff commented, "It is an honor to accept this award on behalf of the team members and village resident supporters of Green Merrimac. Our mission is to implement changes for the Merrimac area that help protect our environment through education and active citizen participation."

CONGRATULATIONS, GREEN MERRIMAC!



2025 Dog & Cat License Reminder

Village Ordinances require all dogs & cats over the age of 5 months be licensed no later than April 1st of each year. Dog and cat licenses may be purchased at Village Hall or by mail. If mailing, please include a stamped, self-addressed, envelope. Please provide a proof of rabies **vaccination certificate** along with the appropriate fee shown below:

	DOGS	CATS
Neutered or Spayed	\$7.00	\$4.00
Unaltered	\$12.00	\$8.00

Senior Fitness Program

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays,

9:30 – 10:00am

Merrimac Village Hall

Join us anytime! Only \$10

Fall/Winter Street Parking

Between 2AM through 8AM vehicles cannot be left on the even numbered side of the street on the even numbered calendar days, and on the odd numbered side of the street on the odd numbered calendar days.



Snow Removal

Clearing snow from sidewalks and ensuring access to mailboxes is the property owner's responsibility pursuant to Village Ordinance 129-5. Sidewalks shall be cleared within 24 hours following the end of a snowfall event. **If walks are not cleared within 48 hours, the Village will clear the walks and bill the homeowner for this service.**



Friday Night Eco-Flicks are back!

Friday, January 17

6:30pm at Village Hall

Green Merrimac kindly invites you to attend the movie "**Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret**", the first in a series of environmentally focused films to be shown this winter at Merrimac Village Hall. Described as a groundbreaking environmental documentary following intrepid filmmaker Kip Andersen as he uncovers the most destructive industry facing the planet today – and investigates why the world's leading environmental organizations are too afraid to talk about it. As eye-opening as Blackfish and as inspiring as An Inconvenient Truth, this shocking yet humorous documentary reveals the absolutely devastating environmental impact large-scale factory farming has on our planet, and offers a path to global sustainability for a growing population. Run time 1.5 hours.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Upcoming Environmental Events

6:30pm @ Village Hall

*February 21 Film: Racing Extinction

*March 21 Speaker: DIY Compost Bin

Everyone is Welcome!

Holiday Office Hours

Village Hall will be closed

December 31 – January 1

**Wishing All of Merrimac
A Safe and**

