

**TOWN OF SAND LAKE  
TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING  
February 24, 2021**

A Meeting of the Sand Lake Town Board was held on February 24, 2021 at the Sand Lake Town Hall. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the following answered roll call:

**PRESENT:** Councilman Bulmer  
Deputy Supervisor Erickson  
Councilman Film  
Councilman Nippes  
Supervisor Perry  
Town Attorney Ely

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Barbara Hansen, Town Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER:** Supervisor Perry opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bill Glasser, Tim Murdick, David & Regina Post, Adam Muhs, Wayne A. Gendron, Helen Pelcher, Shannon DeCelle, John Slyer, John Bielawski, Doug Worden and Garrett DeGraff.

Supervisor Perry noted that longtime resident of Sand Lake, Duane Wehnau, passed away early this morning. The Town Board recently honored Mr. Wehnau for his 75 years of service to the VFW. The Board took a moment of silence in his honor.

Supervisor Perry said the main focus of tonight's workshop meeting is to discuss our open spaces, town trails and other town lands, and to begin to formulate a plan for smart growth. We'd like to open up lines of communications with other organizations in the Town. If anyone in the audience or at home has any ideas relating to the open spaces, the Town Board would love to hear them. Supervisor Perry then introduced John Sniezyk, Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee. He's done a great job creating and maintaining the Town trails over several years and knows the area better than all of us.

John Sniezyk: Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee addressed the Board: Mr. Sniezyk said he has been involved with the trail system since its inception 6 years ago. His committee built and have maintained, mowed and weeded the trails during this time. He went on to say the people using the trails have respected the area and they haven't found any trash or debris left behind. The committee welcomes anyone willing to participate and they welcome new ideas. There is much interest in expanding the trail system but there are many hurdles to overcome since some of the expansion would entail building a bridge, private property, easements, liability and other legal issues. People have expressed interest in building a gazebo, a dog park and the Nopiates committee has discussed a community garden. Construction of the Pump Track is well underway. He said his main focus now is to get the Town Board to come up with a

children, families, senior citizens and other community groups. He hopes to develop sports fields, a bicycle training area and a walking, cross country trail and many other outdoor recreational activities. There will be indoor meeting rooms, studio and industrial arts, storage space for sport teams, exercise rooms and many other amenities available in the future.

Shannon DeCelle and Helen Pelcher are developing a portion of the open space as a dog park which has become very popular and well used. They are trying to do some fund raisers to expand the area but have been hampered by Covid. They have plans to enhance and expand the dog park area and have had positive feedback from people using it and welcome any volunteers willing to help.

Garrett De Graff questioned if the Town was exercising enough control over the use of the open space and trail system and hopes the Town plans accordingly to eliminate any future problems. Supervisor Perry said that was the main focus of tonight's meeting.

Councilman Film agreed that some preliminary planning should be discussed before anything concrete was done. He suggested the Open Spaces Committee and everyone planning these various additions to the park should get together with a copy of the map of the area and "pencil in" some of the proposed improvements. The Board could then review the map and take the plans into consideration.

Tim Murdick said the Nopiates committee had mapped out a potential spot for the community garden and was willing to help "beautify" the entire park. He noted they would not be looking to the Town for funds but would be raising monies in house through fund raisers. He wants to have more conversations with the Open Spaces Committee.

Supervisor Perry said the Board will follow up with the Committee for any updates in a month or so. She felt this was a good meeting tonight and hopes residents watching will be motivated to participate with ideas and volunteering. She is going to put the Open Spaces Committee on the Workshop Meeting Agenda in 2 months to review its progress.

Supervisor Perry then made a motion to adjourn the February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Town Board Workshop Meeting at 8:06 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Film.

**MOTION CARRIED: UNANIMOUS**