

April 22, 2026 Meeting Notes

Attendees: Greg, Allan, Nancy and Doug

Guests: Vicky

Meeting started at 5:35 in Town Hall conference room with Zoom active.

The Zoom connection was unstable, so the Zoom was unable to be continued and shifted to a direct call with Nancy, the only virtual Zoom participant. ***Greg to discuss with Tom Town wi-fi access as the password was not allowing access*** so cellular hotspot was attempted.

Purple Martin House Installation

Allan gave an update on the Purple Martin House installation. He has staked the location in Long Lake Marsh on Town land, Mike (Streets Dept) has the cement and 48" sonatube (to ensure concrete is below frost line). Allan will let Mike know that other ODEAB Board members can help with the install if he is unavailable. The base needs to be installed and allow about a week for the concrete to set, then the post extension and house can be installed. There is time sensitivity related to the timing of the Purple Martin juvenile birds who return in early May.

Bird Town Updates and Activity

Bird/Invasive talk from Susan Kirt at the Historical Society Sunday was a SUCCESS with a full room of 47 attendees at the Hour Glass. The \$200 speaker fee, funded through donations to the Town for Bird Town and was paid by Town Check to add an official tone — this is a proof statement to support our Community Fund request for speaker funds.

Vicky gave an update on the bi-annual renewal application, it is due in June and costs \$100. It is almost like a new application. She will include the EAB Board members as additional contacts per a requirement of the app. Also required is a new Statement of Commitment from the Town for funding. Written vignettes for the Bird Town Indiana Ogden Dunes webpage are required — Vicky will draft and circulate to ODEAB members for help in wording and editing. These are public facing and intended to show our activities in support of the designation.

Vicky will send Jim a request for blast email to promote the IN Bird Festival May 14-17.

Question For Tom: does he need anything from Board members to reserve/plan for the Memorial Day Table and Town Bird Photo Contest?

Community Fund Grant Request

Greg reported he submitted the on-line form April 7 for the ODEAB grant request. It has four components i) Bird Town renewal fee; ii) educational/awareness signage; iii) speaker series funding; iv) youth/summer camp bird house building activity. Doug noted the Community Fund has not yet met to review the 2026 applications.

The Board discussed the kiosk sign concept. Greg noted the aim is for an educational sign with flexibility to rotate content. Nancy noted it would be good to include a range of topics including birds and invasive and habitat with seasonal suggestions, e.g., spring info about garlic mustard and how to remove/mitigate. The Board noted that a location with broad visibility is desired including a suggestion of Kratz Field area in addition to prior discussion of Pollywog Pond and the Tennis/Pickleball courts. There was discussion of Town versus ODHA land and the Town easement near Kratz as an option. ***Doug will email the Board members a town land map showing the Town and ODHA land.*** It was also discussed that a design/install that incorporates elements of the existing wood signs at the Town entrance, Waterworks and by the Firehouse for consistency is desirable. ***It was noted to discuss sign design and location options at a future meeting.***

Beach Water Quality Monitoring

Allan reported he attended the webinar suggested by Scott Kingan on alternative water testing methods based on modeling and numerous data. Allan's view was the testing alternative was highly complex and likely is not a fit for our needs. ***Nancy asked if the daily/periodic test results could be emailed to the ODEAB Members to assist with communicating to neighbors and community members — this is noted for Tom who is leading the testing plan.***

Kratz Field Restoration Project

Greg noted the \$10,000 Town funds — the approximate \$4,500 committed to Ecorealm for invasive removal from the wooded area above the Pavillion and the remaining approximately \$5,000 targeted for larger (>4") invasive tree removal. Greg and Nancy will meet with Laura Brennan on April 28 to receive an update on the Ecorealm activity and timing and to discuss the tree removal options; also to be discussed plans for any continued work at ODHA's Nelson Reck woods (see below).

Other Business

Nancy mentioned the recent Controlled Burn of the Nelson Reck woods and the evidence of significant invasive species. The timing for invasive mitigation is good following a burn. She again asked for a map of Town vs. ODHA land (see above request for a Map) to assist with prioritization of potential volunteer and other invasive management activities.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11