

October 6, 2005

Mr. John Rohan
Director for Recreation

John, I took a good look on the East side of The Villages where you mentioned it could be a possibility for a new archery range.

The building would be ideal for us to store equipment, if we are to teach beginners. It would also be good for us to use the space, which we need very badly, for mounting and storing our paper archery targets.

A lot has to be done to clean up the place. The electrical outlet at the outside is definitely outlawed. It is practically in water and has an extension attached to it. Needless to say, it is very dangerous. A water cooler was there at one time and it would be nice if it could be installed again. The locks should be changed or rekeyed. Who knows where the keys are and who has them. The inside of the building and toilet look pretty bad (I assume).

As far as the range is concerned, it needs some grading and there are some very wet areas. They should be drained, filled with gravel/dirt and re sodded.

The sprinkler system right now is running during the day. That should be changed to very late in the evening or very early morning. I would say in the dark.

I envision the shooting line to be where the property drops a foot or so. That will give us room between the building for bow racks, tables, etc.

The entire range is more than 100 feet wide. The shooting line would have to be 100 feet long and should have a 5 foot wide concrete slab or black top similar to a sidewalk or 5 feet wide and 4-5 inches deep mulch bed. Details for concrete or black top sidewalk can be discussed at the time of construction. Permanent concrete markers should also be imbedded in the grass at 50-40 yards so it does not have to be done year after year.

The range allows us to place 14 targets to shoot at. That would be ample for the local senior games. We would not have to use the Polo Field or Softball Field in the future.

Over the shooting line should be a covering to keep the archers out of the sun. I did see a covering at one of the ranges in Inverness, FL. It seems rather inexpensive but I can't get any literature on it.

The range should be from the shooting line 60 yards long. Beyond the 60 yards, should be a safety zone of 15 feet. At that point there should be an 8 foot high screen to catch stray arrows and that should be safe for people at the back of the range.

I would like to shoot a few arrows at the windbreakers at a tennis court to see if that will do. We might have to double up. There is material made for archery ranges to stop arrows but rather expensive. We will be 60 yards away so it should not be that bad if we use the tennis screen.

I see no reason for a screen on either left or right sides of the range. We are far enough away from either road and our arrows should never reflect that far outward. On the right side of the range we have 25 yards to the street. On the left we have 40 yards to Rt 441. There are also many trees and bushes on both sides so I don't see any problems.

This could be a perfect archery range and as I said before, it is good for future Senior Games. We are shooting in the right direction and per regulation South to North.

Members of our club will be available for suggestions and helping in the planning. We are hoping this can be worked out to everyone's advantage and be a credit to The Villages.

Ubbo Bulman
The Villages Archery Club