

MINUTES
Adhoc Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee
October 25, 2018

OPENING: The scheduled meeting and Open forum of the Adhoc Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee opened at 6:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance:

Dennis Clark, Chairman	Present
Russ Fox, Vice Chairman	Present
David Spina	Present
Dave DeiDolori	Present
John Stadnicki	Present
Craig Samuelson	Absent
Bob Horacek	Absent

Mr. Clark officially opened the forum and welcomed everyone present. Ms. Waldron, Park & Recreation Commission member, was present and wanted to share the following:

Rail Trail and other trails

1. Parking on Miller Road has been completed.
2. Swamp park trail has had volunteers to make it ADA accessible- It is 90% complete.
3. It was called in that kids were making moguls with their motorcycles on Miller Rd area. Park & Rec stated they don't have a budget to keep them out. Was suggested that the DPW or Police Dept. might be able to add barriers to discourage them.- Mr. DeiDolori to follow up with what transpired.
4. Goose Pond- The recreation plan is on hold, because the committee is unsure who owns it. Possibly can go to the Conservation Committee to find out.
5. Town maps showed that they are unsure on some areas of ownership around the lake area and Granville.
6. Friends of the Rail Trail have been donating a lot of things to the rail trail and have been asking the Park and Rec to take care of the root system and overgrowth.- Possibly ask for a grant.
7. We cooperate with our neighboring town of Westfield's Park & Rec. The committee would like them to donate counters to count traffic on the Rail Trail, which would encourage future grants.

8. The north end of the Rail Trail is lacking parking. Could use grant money to get additional parking.
9. It was discussed by a resident to maybe install a maintenance station on Miller Rd. area for bicycles.- Possibly a future grant because it's an expensive venture

Whalley Park and other open areas

1. Add summer camps for sports
2. Street lights have been added- Which is almost completed
3. Arborist trading field use and getting rid of dead brush and trees.
4. Right now the town doesn't have a Park & Rec organization to create sports teams. It is currently run by a private organization.- DPW may get a grant in the future to possibly hire a Park & Rec Director to run sports teams and events.
5. Pavilions should have electricity run to them, it would encourage more renting and events, such as One Call Away.
6. The town has limited spaces to practice for sports teams. Most fields have to be rented.
7. Southwick Rec center field is reserved for actual games and not practice.
8. Is there more land to purchase to create fields for practice.- Possible a business may be interested in donating their open green space, such as in the business district.- Mr. Spina will bring it up on the next Planning Board meeting.
9. Whalley Park is now ADA compliant.

Goals and Objectives

Having a Water Park is on the short list

- A plus for this, the town would be using our well water to run the Park.

Explore the possibilities of utilizing Old Town Beach-

- There is no parking because the Pump station is there
- Great for Kayaking
- Picnicking

New Town Beach-

- Added more parking
- Did work on erosion
- ADA compliant
- Controlling goose e-coli, by creating a net system

Prifti Park

- ADA compliant?
- Picnic tables were added
- BBQ pits were added

The committee would like to update all our accessible parks and beaches to see what is ADA compliant.- Mr. DeiDolori to work with the Park & Rec committee.

Stofinowski Preserve now has a Community Garden under Conservation.

Received a letter from Citizens Restoring Congamond from Ms. Herath to support the preservation of North Pond. (See attachment A)

Mr. Fox discussed a request from the Select Board dated September 13, 2016 for Open Space opportunities. (See attachment B)

Survey is going out with the tax bill and the committee will do a press release stating so.

The schools will be supplying a plan

- Refer to the 2012 plan and work with Ms. Gore to find out what format to put the plan in
- Put in a new playscape to be available to the general public
- Mr. Fox spoke to an engineer about the drainage issue near the track. The engineer stated it can be fixed.
- Additional lighting needed, such as LED to save on money.

Mr. Pratt, of the Community Preservation Committee, came forward with a letter of support of preserving the North Pond property to the Open Space Committee. (See attachment C)

Mr. Fox suggested the opportunity to create a plan for a prospective interactive website. Where interested people could point and click an area to explore in our town. Possibly get an intern to create such a website.- Get Economic Development involved.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fox and seconded by Mr. Spina, to close the Open Forum at 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fox and seconded by Mr. Spina, to accept the minutes of September 13, 2018. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Review of the Open Forum-

1. Preserve North Pond
2. Playscape at Powder Mill School

Mr. Stadnicki gave the layout of the Economic Plan of Table 7 & 8
(See attachment D)

Goals & Objectives –

Make sure survey is accessible online and drop off copies at American Inn, etc.
Mr. Stadnicki to create the survey for online. Mr. Middleton to put on the website.
Sent maps to Cartographic's. They said to get the digital files from Pioneer Valley Planning, than it would be relatively inexpensive.

Goal for next meeting –

Need to go over the new plan with Ms. Gore in the Assessor's office.
Get the digital files for Cartographics.
Get survey out with the tax bill.
Find out from Ms. DeMaio, Budget Coordinator of Community Preservation Committee, how much money the Open Space Committee has available.
Scratch off what we can't possibly preserve and work on what we can.

As there was no further business to discuss, **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox and seconded by Mr. Spina, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

The next scheduled meeting is November 29, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy DeMay, Secretary

cc:
Select Board
Town Clerk

Dennis Clark Chairman

Russ Fox, Vice Chairman

David Spina

Dave DeiDolori

Robert Horacek

Craig Samuelsen

John Stadnicki

Date