

Parks & Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2010
7:00pm

Roll Call:

APPROVED 3.3.10

Present: Peter Sawyer, Arnold Palmer, Lynette Ziskin, Tricia Letendre, Daniel Russell, Maegan Frantz, Frank Shipp, Ben Baskin.

Town Officers Attending: Tim Szczepaniak; Kim Ireland; Murry Brower, Town Attorney.

Meeting called to order 7:06pm

Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes from 2.3.10:

Szczepaniak requested that meeting minutes be emailed to committee members and Representatives prior to meeting. Secretary will forward meeting minutes to committee as requested

Sawyer made motion to accept meeting minutes from 2.3.10 with changes noted in red. Letendre seconded. Ayes-All; Nays-None.

Special Note:

Any meeting of two or more Parks & Recreation Committee Members will be considered a formal meeting, and must be recorded with the Town Clerk's Office at least two days prior to the meeting date.

Old Business:

- 1. Contact Town Attorney regarding Diamond Anchor Park Bequest –Shipp.**
 - Frank contacted Town Attorney Murray Brower to review language of will.
 - Portion of Will & Testament regarding Diamond Anchor Park provided to Shipp who read a segment to the committee*.
 - Specific language of bequest discussed with further detail provided by Brower.
- 2. Town Attorney visit to Committee to clarify bequest.**
 - Brower believes the courts would like to complete the business of the bequest quickly.
 - Currently, the language of the document is available for interpretation, although it does not appear to be an obstacle for either party to the realization of the bequest.
 - Brower has a conference with the Surrogate Court on February 18th regarding document and will request an interpretation of the specific terms of the bequest be offered by the court.
 - a. Restraint(s), if any, on choosing potential park property.
 - b. Current accounting of bequest
 - c. Potential investment of bequest funds and the required administrative responsibilities & duties.
 - d. Who will purchase the land.
 - e. Restrictions on use of land.
 - f. Timing requirements / limitations to complete Diamond Anchor Park. Potential of monies being reverted to scholarship fund .

- Brower will communicate with AG and Court that the Town of Ballston has an active Parks and Recreation Committee that is committed to intelligently moving forward with Diamond Anchor Park and the fulfillment of the deceased's wishes. A Grant Chart will be requested from the Committee if required.
- Brower will return to Committee meeting on March 3, 2010 to discuss particulars of his conference with the Court.

3. Review of Land Options

- Szczepaniak introduced Penny Palmer-Heritage to discuss availability of Palmer land on Charlton/Ballston Town Line.
- Palmer- Heritage provided committee with Arial view of property with Town line delineated. * B – Town of Ballston; C – Town of Charlton;
- Property is currently agriculture use, has proper drainage, unlimited water use (aquaphor was once considered for a town water supply), tree line is currently part of the snowmobile system, family would like property to remain open space.
- Three purchase option presented:
 - a. Entire Parcel = 106.67 acres (Option A). Priced at \$850,000.00
 - B. Portion of Parcel = approximately 80 acres (Option B). Priced at \$560,000.00.
 - C. Portion of Parcel = approximately 55 Acres (Option C) (will not include pond). Priced at \$495,000.00 with stipulation that no restrictions be placed on any development that the Palmer-Heritage family and the Town of Ballston mutually agree upon for the family owned parcel.
 - D. All associated costs with the acquisition of property would be the responsibility of the Town, with a requirement from the family for the construction of dedicated Town Rd. to access property options B & C.
 - E. Family requires that the land be deeded for a Town Park.
 - F. Family states that neighboring property owners seem to be receptive of the property becoming park land.
 - G. Letendre will be the Parks & Recreation committee contact person with the Palmer / Heritage family.

4. GIS Mapping

- Sawyer presented County GIS Map for review listing potential parcels of land that include 20+ acres, trail systems, snowmobile trails.
- Map parcels reviewed as potential for connecting to bike trail.
- Current park facility locations noted.
- Current residential/ mixed use development locations noted.
- Frantz will review Planning Board Document – Subdivision of Land and Zoning to learn of language pertaining to parks, recreation, open space, etc. in code.

5. Saratoga PLAN Meeting

- **Baskin attended half of meeting, Palmer attended meeting.**
- Committee may want to look at purchasing land from abutting property along utility line and adding land for fields at later time

6. Community Input Plan / Needs Assessment:

- Letendre investigating financials to put out survey; postcards considered.

- a. Financial resources to conduct a formalized survey may not exist.
- b. Ireland suggests developing a preliminary budget for Parks & Recreation Committee.
- c. Brower suggested that a small portion of monies may have been / should be distributed from Estate/bequest. Szczepaniak states that the Town Board has not been notified of any disbursement.
- A survey completed through the Town's website does not seem feasible.
 - d. Should we consider outside source i.e. Survey Monkey, etc.
 - e. Sawyer suggested possibly utilizing student groups to conduct / analyze survey. Will look at HVCC.
- Survey of 2005 brought up: should we use these results for our purposes now and consider doing a needs survey again at a later date.
 - a. Mixed opinion on 2005 survey sampling's validity and results.

7. Press Release

- Frantz enlisted Ireland's help to rewrite draft
 - a. Russell will be point of contact for Press Releases from Committee
 - b. Parties interested in having their properties considered for Diamond Anchor Park will contact Dan through the Town Clerk's email.
 - c. Anonymity may be desired by some potential parcel owners – can this be offered? Anonymity can be offered an individual during the discussion process, but once the parcel is brought to the Committee and placed on the Agenda to be formally considered, the individual/parcel can no longer be offered anonymity.
 - d. Revised PR will sent to committee prior to meeting.

New Business:

- Criteria for selection or removal of property as potential park land.
- Action Items for Next Meeting:
 - a. *Russell – will call Charlton to discuss possible joint activities/projects; work on work plan for pavilions, parking*
 - b. *Shipp – will follow up with Murray Brower*
 - c. *Letendre – Contact for Palmer land if necessary, Continue with survey information*
 - d. *Frantz – Review Planning Documents for language related to Parks, Recreation, open Space, Green Space; attend meeting; identify current residential developments; begin working on Vision Statement, Mission and Guiding Principles with Sawyer and Letendre.*

Adjournment:

All business complete, motion to adjourn made by Russell, seconded by Sawyer. Ayes – All, Nays – 0.

Meeting adjourned 9:53 pm.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 3, 2010, 7:00pm, Ballston Town Hall

* Copies of these items may be viewed in the Town Clerks Office