

Town of Ballston
Park and Recreation Committee
Minutes of Meeting
January 20th, 2010

APPROVED 2.3.10

The first meeting of the Town of Ballston Park and Recreation Committee was held on January 20th, 2010, at the town hall beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Order of Business

As this was the first meeting of the committee, the first action was to appoint a secretary for the meeting. Megan Frantz offered a motion for Daniel Russell to be the secretary, second of motion by Ben Walter, and all votes in favor.

At the end of the meeting, the members discussed committee organization and officers. Frantz moved and Shipp seconded a motion for Russell as Chairperson. Vote for was unanimous. Walter moved and Birbills seconded a motion for Sawyer as Vice Chairperson. Vote for was unanimous. Shipp moved and Sawyer seconded a motion for Frantz as Secretary. Vote for was unanimous.

Role Call - Present

Daniel Russell
Maegan Frantz
Arnold Palmer
Pete Sawyer
Ben Walter
Greg Birbilis
Frank Shipp

Town Officers Attending

Supervisor Patti Southworth
Councilwoman Marybeth Hines
~~Councilman~~ Scott Miller

Meeting

Members opened the meeting by self introductions

Supervisor Southworth opened the meeting with a welcome to the committee members. Southworth provided copies of the Park and Recreation Committee rules and regulations which were read, signed, dated, and returned by all members for record.

Southworth explained that the first priority of business for the committee would be to identify possible land for Diamond Anchor Park and propose planned uses for the park. Southworth stated that the funding for the park may become available from an estate and that use of the estate funds for the Park may be time critical. Exact funds and availability timing of the funds

was not known, but Southworth offered to request the Town attorney to attend the next meeting to provide any additional information.

Councilwomen Hines discussed actions over the past few years that she considered pertinent to the committee. These include the Land Conservation Committee and the Town of Ballston Comprehensive Plan. Hines provided excerpts of reports from these to the committee and explained that full documents are available.

Scott Miller provided general information regarding the strong equine/agricultural involvement in Saratoga County and the Town of Ballston.

In an open discussion period, Hines, Miller, and Southworth answered committee questions and offered the following:

- The first priority of business for the committee should be to identify possible land for Diamond Anchor Park, and possible uses for the park.
- A list of vacant properties can be made available to the committee.
- A list of agricultural property can be made available to the committee.
- Malta has a land use plan which may be of interest for review.
- A County Trail System organization exists and meets monthly
- There are several organizations in the area with interests in park use. These organizations are representing interests such as snowmobiling, horseback riding, biking, soccer, baseball, football, water sports etc.
- These are interests for park use that may not be represented by specific organizations. These include walking, fishing, birding, dog activities, playground use, picnicking, etc.
- Towns bordering Ballston also have park program and may be a reference source of plans and information.

The committee continued an open discussion to identify what would be needed in the near term for the committee to make an informed plan and recommendation for a park plan. The ideas seem endless, ranging from a single parcel of land with no improvements, to multiple parcels, to connecting trail system, and to a park complex complete with ball fields and playground equipment. Information is required to develop a plan that is appropriate and affordable. The committee also considered the need for future cost of improvements, and costs of maintenance. The committee created a list of initial actions focused on information gathering and members volunteered to pursue them for presentation at the next meeting. The list and assignments are as follows.

- Land option – Palmer will obtain the lists of vacant and agricultural properties from the town, and investigate lands for sale.
- Park Options, with timelines and costs (rough order magnitude) – Frantz and Shipp
- Schools and Organizations – Birbills will investigate needs and interests within the Town, and adjacent communities.
- Town Plans – Sawyer will investigate Saratoga County and Clifton Park park and recreation plans.
- Malta plans – Baskin will investigate Malta park and recreation plans.

- Press Release – Frantz will work with Southworth on a plan to notify residents of the formation of the Park and Recreation Committee, and request for input.
- Park Estate Funding – Russell will request the town attorney be present at the next meeting to further explain the status of the estate funding for Diamond Anchor Park.

Next Meeting

Shipp moved and Frantz seconded a motion for the next meeting to be held Wednesday, February 3rd at 7:00 pm. Vote for was unanimous. Chairperson will notify the town clerk as required (so informed 1/21/2010).

Agenda for Next Meeting 7:00

Old Business

7:00 – 7:15 Park Estate Funding –town attorney to explain status of the estate funding for Diamond Anchor Park.

7:15 – 8:15 Members to provide an update on their efforts as follows

- Land option – Palmer
- Park Options, with timelines and costs (rough order magnitude) – Frantz and Shipp
- Schools and Organizations – Birbills
- Town Plans – Sawyer
- County plans – Walter
- Press Release – Frantz

New Business

8:15 – 9:00 Develop next action plan based on the input to date.

Adjournment

All business complete, Chairperson Russell moved and Vice Chairperson Sawyer seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.