

Parks & Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2010
7:00pm

Roll Call:

APPROVED 3.24.10

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

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

Meeting called to order 7:09pm

Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes from 2.17.10:

- Palmer made suggestion to add “Baskin attended half of meeting, Palmer attended meeting.” Minutes changed to reflect that.
- Shipp motioned to accept minutes as amended. Baskin seconded.
- Ayes – All, Nays - 0

Old Business:

1. Report on Attorney Meeting.

- Murry Brower was present to speak about his meeting on 2.18.10 with the courts regarding the Schidzick’s estate.
- Brower notified court that the Parks & Recreation Committee has been formed and working on locating land for Diamond Anchor Park.
 - a. Reasoned that the Town/Committee needs to know the financials of the estate as quickly as possible.
 - b. Committee should receive notification on a draft amount by April 1, 2010, and will receive a full accounting by July 15, 2010 that will include current value of all assets: cash, stocks, shares, etc.
- Brower believes that the Committee will need to purchase property for Diamond Anchor Park immediately.
 - a. It is suggested that by August the transaction be completed.
- Brower states the attorneys all agree that the intent of the Will when stating “Forever Wild” indicates that the land purchased with the endowment is to remain a Park forever. Improvements may be made to this land in keeping with it remaining a Park.
 - a. Palmer raises a question about Soccer Fields being considered Forever Wild. Brower confirms that improvements of this nature, and others that maintain the usage of the land as a Park, is in keeping with the wishes of the deceased.
- Brower is meeting with Courts again on April 1, 2010 and will keep the Committee updated on the financials that are provided to him.

2. Map with current Parks shown

- Sawyer displayed map provided by the County Planning Department that showed the Parks located within the Town of Ballston, and several that are located in neighboring towns.
 - a. There is a small stretch of public land located on Longcreek Drive, but is not designated a Park.

- b. Designation of lands as historical needs clarification – are we looking at where something of historical nature stands, or lands of historical significance to Town (marked by sign).
 - Committee will consider both.
- Committee continued to review map for possible land options.
- Baskin will draft a letter to be sent to owners of 15+ acres to inquire about the potential sale of their parcel for park land and email committee for review and comment.*
- Suggestion of taking a ride as a group to look for land made.
- Committee will need to start marking GIS maps of potential parcels, compare each to a set of criteria, extract parcels that are suitable, contact parcel owner to discuss sale.

3. List of big developers and their plans

- Frantz reported on two residential developments that have been approved, and one residential development that has preliminary approval.*
 - a. Stonebridge – 222 units on Lake Rd.
 - 1. Parks & Rec fee of \$500.00 per unit
 - 2. Provision for optional dedication of +/-4.6 acres of open space/recreation land TBD by Planning Board. Land would transfer to Town at time public roads are dedicated.
 - 3. Dedicated 13.76 acres of land to the homeowner's association and labeled Condominium HOA Open Space.
 - b. Sharon Lane – 9 Units
 - 1. Parks & Rec fee of \$500.00 per unit
 - 2. From planning maps, the property surrounding Sharon Lane Units, appears to be mostly wetlands.
 - 3. No open space able to be located on Maps specifically.
 - c. Mourningkill Drive – 49 Units
 - 1. Parks & Rec fee of \$500.00 per unit
 - 2. Proposed designated open space needs to be formalized
 - 3. Development backs up to land Committee may want to look at as potential parkland.
 - d. Potential of large development at Round Lake Rd. and Eastline Rd. Looked at map of potential area.
 - 1. May wish to speak to developer about coordinating open space with Town plans.

4. Survey – methods and content

- Letendre reported on past survey
 - a. The 2004 survey cost the Town \$1,600.
 - b. Response rate for 2004 survey was 38%
- Letendre reports on potential 2010 survey.
 - a. Postcard survey would cost \$.62 per piece.
 - b. Postcards would be sent to 3,300 households.
 - c. A bulk mailing company would have to be used b/c the Town does not have the resources.
 - d. Surveymonkey.com continues to be investigated as an option to institute a current survey.
- Shipp presented numbers from 2004.
 - a. 2,880 surveys were mailed, 910 received back.
 - b. Maintains that the results should be considered valid and reliable despite opinions of otherwise.

- c. Would like a statistician to review the information and make a recommendation on it.
- d. Sawyer volunteers to review the 2004 survey and its process. Will focus on how the sampling was completed.
- e. Sawyer and Shipp will work together to review 2004 survey.
 1. Interest expressed by additional members of the committee in reviewing the types of questions that were asked.

5. Press Release

- Committee made final review of press release with suggested changes.
- Frantz will forward press release to Town Clerk for distribution.

6. Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles

- Sawyer distributed example mission and vision documents researched on the web for committee review and comment.
- Frantz compiling definitions for consideration of committee to assist in developing own vision/mission statements.

7. Park Plan updates

- Sawyer documented list of criteria suggested by committee that will be utilized as important considerations when looking for appropriate park land.
- Sawyer will type this list of criteria up and email to committee for review and suggested ranking of importance.*

New Business:

1. Baskin will draft a letter to be sent to owners of 15+ acres to inquire about the potential sale of their parcel for park land and email committee for review and comment.*
2. Sawyer will compile each member's input on the criteria and report on criteria ranking.*
3. Letendre will try to make contact with Mrs. Capiello to schedule a visit to their property by some committee members. Letendre will remain the contact with Mrs. Capiello and her property.
4. Sawyer and Shipp will retrieve information on the 2004 survey and report their findings to the committee.
5. Frantz will forward Mission/Vision brainstorming documents to Sawyer & Letendre for comment prior to sharing with full committee.*

Other Business:

1. Letendre made a motion to move the meeting scheduled for 3.17.10 to 3.24.10 so that conflicts for several members would be avoided. Shipp seconded. Ayes – All, Nays – 0.

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned 9:10 pm.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 24, 2010, 7:00pm, Ballston Town Hall

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