

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Tuesday December 16, 2014

Hooksett Municipal Building, Room 204

Board Attendees: Tom Prasol, Dave Elliott, Jacqui McCartin

Guests: Leo Lessard of DPW, Steve Couture of Conservation Commission, Mike Horne & Deb Miville, public attendees

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Tom Prasol

November minutes were not distributed, and will be reviewed for approval at the next meeting.

New Business

Discussion on Conservation Committee Impact Fee request:

Due to other obligations of attendee, New Business was discussed first. Leo discussed the current status of Peters Brook and shared reports indicating the costs involved in further development of the project. It was noted that utilization of Manchester Sand and Gravel for site work in lieu of them retaining the materials provided an estimated savings of \$563k. The estimate for completion of the project is approximately \$568k, if all work is outsourced. There is approximately \$51k of allocated impact fees remaining. Leo's first priorities would be the lighting and water/irrigation, with a cost of approximately \$99k. The Board discussed an additional allocation at this time, Leo suggested holding off, as better estimates would be obtained.

The P&RAB invited HYAA to participate in discussions of Peters Brook at this meeting, their input was sought as a key component of the fields. They did not respond to the invitation and were not present.

Steve Couture of the Conservation Commission reviewed the status of grants for the Merrimack River project and that the initial focus is on the trails and bridge to access the lands. As the P&RAB had approved an allocation of \$100k for this project at the last meeting, there was discussion that the funds would be utilized for the actual trails and property, rather than for engineering or surveying. Steve indicated that there had already been a review of the property and much of the design has been addressed. The P&RAB reaffirmed their commitment in allocating impact fees for this project.

Public Input

Deb Miville attended the meeting to become better acquainted with the committee. She participated in the Community Profile session. She and Mike Horne, who headed up a committee focused on the recreational assets of the town, reviewed some of the ideas that came out of the session. They discussed the possibility of developing a bike trail from SNHU area into the Village area of Hooksett and documentation of the parks and available recreation on the town website. Mike said he would bring some of the materials and ideas to our next P&RAB meeting. Mike also mentioned that Manchester Sand and Gravel land that connects the Head's Pond Trail to the town beach will be turned over next May.

Tom Prasol mentioned to Deb Miville that there is an open seat on the P&RAB – there was a discussion about the commitment and focus of the Board. Deb stated she would consider it.

Recreation Department report:

Leo updated the board- Programs have ended. The Hanna Ho Hee pond will again be utilized for public skating, as the weather allows. There was discussion about better methods of clearing snow, perhaps a small plow. There are also future plans to add timed lighting to the existing pole. Parking is provided up Memorial Drive with a cleared walkway and warming hut installed as an Eagle Scout project for easier access.

Leo mentioned he would like to have a Parks & Recreation coordinator, to help organize Hooksett activities, use of the facility and ongoing programs, perhaps even a part time person going forward.

Pinnacle

There was discussion about the remaining items to be done at the Pinnacle. Leo plans to include a split rail fence to define the area and additional picnic tables. The commemorative plaque was brought up and Leo will check on the status, Mike commented that the Conservation Commission was aware and committed to this.

Sport Field Signage

Leo updated that the Donati sign is ready and will be installed. The Pinnacle sign has been installed, and the standardization of all parks signs is still in process.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.