

**Public Hearing re Pinnacle Park  
April 28, 2011, 7PM  
Hooksett Public Library**

Planning committee members present: Mike Horne, Kathie Northrup, Alden Beauchemin, Dave Hess

Sign-in of Attendees:

Bob & Eileen Ehlers	14 Arden Dr
Janice Locke	484 West River Rd
Anita Jowders	1 Vista Dr
Lorraine & Steve Tyma	3 Summit Dr
John & Jennifer Boyle	7 Heather Dr
Deb Piotrowski	7 Cyr Dr
Bob & Arleen Gosselin	24 Pinnacle St
Pauline & Dave Patten	3 Vista Dr
Tammy Shackford	7 Birch Hill Rd
Kurt Beaumont	15 Summit Dr
Michelle Mathieu	2 Birch Hill Rd
Roberta & James Cooper	17 Ardon Drive
Adam St Germain	18 Birch Hill Dr
Rick Mellon	24 Birch Hill Rd
Rob Launier	2 Cyr Dr

Mike opened the meeting at 7 p.m.

He showed sample signage and deed conditions. Dave explained possibilities under the deed. He had brought a large plan of the property with the existing trails highlighted. Kathie gave a very brief history of the site. She had also prepared a photo display with pictures from various angles and points in time.

**Concerns/comments expressed by the audience, all abutters or neighbors:**

Condition/safety of Pinnacle Street in winter

E. Ehlers: people are still using their private property for access

Restrict/control access off Ardon Dr

How was the land purchased? Dave gave Bud's history and the transfer of the land to his daughters after his death. Conservation Comm purchased the land with funds from current use. Public hearing was held prior to vote of the council.

There's graffiti on water precinct building. What's to stop visitors from defacing the ledges?

Fencing areas with apparent access

What is the time frame? Mike explained that gravel road, parking area, and clearing trees could be done between now and December. Impact fees expire then.

Did we get input from the water precinct? They have protected the pond for so long.

Now with open public access what would the impact be? Will fishing be allowed?

Where is the town getting the money for this project? With everything going on, there are better places to spend money. This should be put on the back burner. Mike explained monies were coming from impact fees.

One pointed out that many years ago when the Pinnacle was open to the public, there weren't neighborhoods surrounding it, and people used to walk rather than drive to it.

Worried about children and traffic.

Discussion on location of access road. Some thought closer to 3A, others further up toward pond.

Will there be sidewalks on 3A?

Dave asked if people would rather have off-street parking lot or parking on road. Some answered neither or one or the other. Dave thought the group leaned more towards on-street parking than off-street parking lot.

If winter access was a problem, Mike suggested perhaps it could be closed in the winter.

Parking by road to pond suggested.

B. Ehlers remarked that the town doesn't have to follow its own rules. He feels the water precinct building is unattractive. If other structures are built he felt that should go before the Planning Board or the abutters. How would the Planning Group handle the trail that infringes on their private property? Dave thought the trail could be disguised to discourage use. Cons Comm requested those items in the deed as possibilities, e.g., warming hut, pavilion, open stone fireplace. Dave explained that Bear Paw is also involved.

Dave told the audience that this is not a park but a conservation area.

An audience member asked what if the neighbors don't want this at all? What should they do? Suggested they could attend Parks & Rec meeting or council.

Curfew, carry-in/carry-out—how would that be enforced? Who is going to keep the area clean?

Increased liability for town in opening it up to public. Dangerous cliff at the summit.

Fire hazard, intoxicated kids, fireworks.

Who could use this? Hooksett residents or open to everyone?

One mentioned that it probably won't bring any more visitors than are there now.

One thought it was a wonderful spot but only wants people in the neighborhood to enjoy it.

It's a rock climbing spot—again increased liability. Rock Rimmon mentioned.

Difficult area for fire trucks.

About this hearing—Dave explained that abutters were notified by mail and neighbors got a flyer in their mailbox, over 100 notices. A notice also appeared in the Banner and was posted on the town website in the calendar and as an announcement.

Audience was encouraged to send any comments in writing to Mike or call him or Dave at the phone numbers and email in their letter/flyer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Several people stayed after the meeting to talk with Mike, Kathie and Dave, and to view the photo display and plan of the property.

Recorded by Kathleen Northrup

The following is a list of questions submitted to Kathie after the meeting.

**Questions/Concerns presented after the meeting regarding the development of the Pinnacle**

1. In instances where the proposed parking lot is full, will parking be permitted on the street? The intersection of Pinnacle Street, 3A, and Birch Hill Road is already challenging due to the steep hill, obscured approach, and sharp turn. Increased obstacles such as parked cars could cause additional problems.

2. Will there be increased police patrolling to deter potential disturbances, e.g. underage drinking and vandalism, in the park?

3. Will the developed areas be lit? If so, how brightly? Will there be a "beauty zone" to block such lighting? (She said after the meeting that a tree buffer could also be problematic as the neighbors wouldn't be able to "keep an eye" on the area.)

4. Will trash receptacles be provided and maintained, or will it be a carry in/carry out park?

5. What are the proposed hours of use?

6. What purpose will the structures listed ultimately serve? What is the long term vision for the area?

7. Will sidewalks eventually be installed to handle any increase in foot traffic?

8. Will there be a property tax impact to offset construction/maintenance costs?

9. What purpose would the tower on the summit serve?

10. Will permits be required to use the pavilions, kiosks, gazebos, etc?

11. Has the area surrounding the recently constructed pump houses and access road been considered as a site for parking/access?

12. Is Pinnacle pond still a drinking water source? What impact will development have on the pond? Is there a thought concerning stocking the pond for fishing?