

Notes from October 24, 2011 Pinnacle Planning Committee (PPC) meeting  
Hooksett Library, 6:30PM

Attendees: Mike Horne, Kathie Northrup, John Turbyne, Jim Walter, Bob Ehlers

1. Reviewed and amended minutes of 7/28/2011 meeting (no "s" on Walter) and reviewed approved notes of 8/18/2011 meeting.

2. PUBLIC INPUT: Mike Horne passed out an email he received from Eileen Ehlers, dated 10/23/2011 (she asked him to pass on to the PPC and Conservation Commission). The content of the email will be included as part of these meeting notes (at end).

3. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Signs by the Ardon Drive cul-de-sac: Mike Horne said he will stake the proposed location for the four signs (DPW said signs are on-hand) and he will have the abutters review the location before the signs are installed. Some discussion on how to better define property line and protect abutters. John Turbyne suggested a stone wall. Bob Ehlers ask for something higher, like a stockade fence to provide some privacy. Mike Horne volunteered to get pricing for fencing. John Turbyne said the sections of the carriage trail that encroach and leave the Pinnacle property should be blocked off. He also recommended some parking for handicap access be provided on the property off Ardon Dr. (behind the pump house, using the existing gravel road) and access to the carriage trail be constructed. John said he would ask Cindy Robertson, Conservation Commission, to check for grants to construct handicap access.

B. Use of Recreation Impact Fees: Mike Horne said he will check with Christine Soucy about status on use of funds obligated when Town Council approved expenditure.

C. Proposed access road and parking lot off Pinnacle St.: DPW has flagged proposed road and parking lot. Mike Horne, Steve Couture, and Dave Hess reviewed it and reported it looked OK, perhaps move a few feet further west to get more sight distance for Birch Hill Rd.

D. Proposed Rules/Regulations: Jim Walter reported he did an internet search for what parks has for R&R. Many have criteria for dogs. No proposed draft was provided for review/comments. Kathie Northrup volunteered to review Town ordinances to see what might be applicable.

E. Park Signs: John Turbyne proposed a sign on Route 3A at entrance to Pinnacle St. It was agreed a sign is needed on Pinnacle St. to identify the land as Pinnacle for people unfamiliar with entry to the park (especially to help people redirected from Ardon Dr.) Also signs with rules/regulations and allowed uses are needed.

F. Memorial to the Lockes: It was agreed that all needed to be finalized and installed and a dedication ceremony held. Kathie Northrup will continue efforts to get proposals and costs for a plaque. It was suggested to relocate a boulder or large stone to put the plaque on.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Next Steps (public hearing, TC): The group decided to have a public hearing on November 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>. Mike Horne volunteered to look at scheduled meetings in Town, pick a time/date and put an announcement in the Banner.

B. Brochure and Town website visibility: it was decided to delay publicizing the Pinnacle more until measures are in place for the public to have easier access and some steps taken to protect abutters from unreasonable disturbances.

C. 5-Year Plan: nothing new

D. Future of Pinnacle Planning Committee: A decision was delayed until a few basic things are accomplished (signs, better public access, dedication).

E. Conservation Commission (CC): Jim Walter said the CC will be submitting a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) proposal this year for funding efforts to improve public access to Hooksett's conservation property.

Notes taken by Mike Horne

-----PUBLIC INPUT-----

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <eileensdesk@aol.com>

Date: Sun, Oct 23, 2011 at 2:30 PM

Subject: fyi, pinnacle planning committee

To: bobehlers@aol.com, hornemw@gmail.com

(Mike, I do not have addresses for the full Pinnacle Park Committee and Conservation Committee; please share with them)

Dear Pinnacle Planning Committee,

Since I am aware of the committee meeting on Monday evening, I am taking the opportunity as an abutter to Pinnacle Park to update you on my situation.

There are still instances of trespassers who cross the tape which borders my property, as well as the rope marking the Cooper land boundary. The tape has been a visual marker for those who use the trail correctly, but it does not deter people from entering, nor dogs from crossing into my yard. The tape is an eyesore from my home; visitors have said it appears that I live at a crime scene. Many walkers duck under the water dept. fence and enter there to walk, and fish/boat on the pond. Traffic continues to be quite high daily, with drivers coming to the cul-de-sac, reading the hand-written signs, and leaving. Whenever I am outdoors, people ask for directions to the entrance point (or permission to cross our land). One angry driver told me that the handwritten sign, which he insisted that I put up, is illegal. I do not intend to have ongoing discussions with strangers about my legal rights to privacy.

The day after the hurricane Irene, I was on my deck when a large and loud ATV passed through the trail behind my home. The driver said he had permission from Town Hall to ride on the park trails, and I have seen him multiple times in the park since then. His vehicle left ruts in the ground which was saturated from the heavy rains of that storm. Bark was stripped from trees in narrow portions of the trail, and roots of trees scraped bare from the passing of the ATV. Surely this is not the intended use of conservation land. (I will add that the man was very aggressive, intimidating and rude to me, shouting that he was "not on my property, so get back to the kitchen or go hunt down the Mexicans on the Pinnacle".)

Numerous times cars have parked on the cul-de-sac as walkers entered the park, and remained there after dark, sometimes until 10 pm.

On very late Aug 4 or very early Aug 5 someone came to my driveway which is the last house on a cul-de-sac, and smashed the windows on my car and my husband's car. No other vandalism was done on the entire street.

I hope comprehensive and official signage is erected soon, as well as a secure boundary with sight line privacy between the park trail and my yard. With leaves now fallen from the trees, the trail, a mere 40 feet from my deck, gives unobstructed views through my home windows. I continue to believe it was inappropriate to publicize use of the park before such concerns were addressed.

Thank you all for your work on this project, and attention to the rights of abutters.

Eileen Ehlers

