

Park and Recreation Commission- Special Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting

December 9, 2020

Meeting called to order: 7:33pm.

Commissioners in Attendance: George Caye, Genevieve Coursey, Ritu Goel, Michael Kelly, James Hennessey, Michael LeBlanc, Toby Lewis, Bill Nowak, and Renee Powell.

Also in Attendance: Erica Evans, Ray Favreau, John Caldwell, and Kerry Macchi

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by George Caye and seconded by Renee Powell to approve the November 9th minutes. Passed unanimously.

Public Input: Ashley Piscarelli called in to the meeting. She is a secretary with the Public Works department in South Windsor and is interested in getting involved with some of the commissions in town. She is excited to follow along and see what the commission does.

Report of Council Liaison: Councilor Evans shared with the commission that she received a letter from the Patriotic Commission regarding the decision to name the roadway between parking lots at VMP after our former Chair, Al Larson. They were not happy that they were not consulted with prior to the decision, and would like the commission to consider choosing another location for the dedication. Mike Kelly said that he wanted to hear the commissioner's opinion on the subject, and will open the floor later in the meeting.

Special Reports: George Caye recalled that a few years ago, someone from the public came to a meeting to express their interest for a disc golf course at Lawrence Road Park. George wanted to reach out to them and see if they would be interested in drawing up a plan for the town. All commissioners were in favor.

Master Plan Update: Mr. Favreau shared with the commission the first several pages of the initial chapters of the Master Plan so they could see the layout. We are working hard to have it completed by the next meeting so we can present it to the Council shortly thereafter.

OSTF: The Open Space Task Force spoke about the following properties:

- The Windshire Drive property that we spoke about last meeting was sold, so it is off the table.
- 186 Foster Street- Two parcels of land that were appraised at \$59,000 each. It is next to a piece of property that the town already owns, but the price may be too steep.
- 93 & 99 Dart Hill Road- Aerial photos are available on the listing online. John thinks we can get it for a better price than what it is listed for. It will connect Dart Hill road to Avery Street through already town owned property. It will also add to the Cross Town Trail. They will recommend that the town makes the purchase for the right price.
- 220 Scantic Road- Property on the East Windsor town line that is currently owned and maintained by the Scouts. They would like to sell it to South Windsor for \$1. It is the only access point to the Scantic River in South Windsor and would be a valuable asset to the town. There's already a gravel road and parking lot and a spot where they know they can make an access point for kayaks.

Report of the B of E Liaison: None due to the absence of the liaison.

Report of Parks and Rec. Director: Ray Favreau, Director of Parks and Recreation provided updates on the following:

- The Parks and Rec Dept had a very successful November despite the recent regulations back to Phase 2.1 made by the Governor. The Department is still scheduling programs on a month to month basis.
- The RFP process was a success, with five submittals from engineering firms for the design work for the Cross Town Trail. Ray and a few other town staff conducted interviews and are now in the process of trying to find additional funding in order to cover the costs of all phases, since it came in higher than expected. Ray would like the commission to weigh in on the possibility of using Capital Projects money that was already designated to SWW&WW in previous fiscal years, to be shifted and used on this project to cover the costs. Mike Kelly made a motion to approve allocating the funds, and George Caye seconded the motion. All in favor, passed unanimously.

- Ray explained that he may have to pick one option for Capital Projects due to the amount of funding that is available. The commission agreed that they would go forward with their idea for the upgrades at Rye Street Park.
- The John J. Mitchell Fairgrounds is being investigated as a possible flying area for the Tobacco Valley Radio Controlled Airplanes, who will eventually be displaced due to the expansion of leaf composting operations at the Town Garage.

Discussion Topic:

- Role of Liaisons: Toby pointed out that we already have guidelines for the Board of Education liaison, but don't have anything in place for the Town Council Liaison. He thought it may be a good idea going forward to establish some guidelines because of the potential of changing liaisons when elections are held. Some members felt it was unnecessary to spend time coming up with something if no other boards or commissions have similar practices. The discussion was tabled
- There is an opportunity to apply for a grant through the SW Greater Together Community Fund, and the commission asked Ray to write up an RFP for money to be used towards the Cross Town Trail.

Other Business: The commission decided to have a discussion about the letter that was sent from the Patriotic Commission. It was ultimately decided to choose another location for the tribute to Al Larson that was inside the park, and the commission decided that a good spot would be at the lap pool.

SWW&WW: No reports

Meeting adjourned at 9:23pm – motion made by Toby Lewis and seconded by Renee Powell- passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: January 13, 2020

Respectfully Submitted – Kerry Macchi, Administrative Secretary