

Mill Pond Committee 12-9-2020 Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom, per State and Federal regulations, start time 6:32pm - Attendees: Ryan Goodwin, chair, Dena Trotta, Zip Corning, Deb Hamilton, Mike Welch, Matt Schwom, Paul Delaney, Robin Pendergrast, Polly McDowell, Brad Bushur, Patricia Reeser, Wendy Willis, others from Open Space Committee

- Reding of COVID-19 notice per Gov. Bakers orders
- Acknowledge and welcome Open Space members, and move their All – Access/Inclusive Trail agenda point to the beginning of the meeting
 - Discussion by Patricia Reeser regarding a general outline of what OSC is looking to do and some background on the process thus far including information about available grants and additional details on in kind donations
 - Brad Bucshur details potential concepts, ideas and intent and discusses plans for Phase 1. This includes discussion of requirements, funding, scope and deliverables. Discussion also included details about correcting current erosion and parking issues by relocating certain roadways and parking areas, especially away from the water's edge. Additionally, the discussion included comments and questions regarding dyke improvement and repair, and how it might relate to the current grant request. Opens up to further group discussion and questions.
 - Inquiries include topics such as Phase 2, inclusion of new/redesigned parking areas, landscaping/hardscaping questions, tree removal and planting and types of materials that may be used in trail building
 - Discussion includes proposed layout for trails, distance and trajectory, and members expressed concerns regarding tree removal and disrepair of current trails and surrounding areas. Members discussed making improvements while limiting changes

- Broad discussion of what the term “All-Access” actually means, list of requirements and discussion of the many different types of disabilities and how this proposal would benefit those with disabilities.
- Dena Trotta made a motion to support the Open Space Committee and this current proposal. Matt Schwom seconded the motion, and it was passed by a margin of 5-3. Following discussion included reasons why individual members voted a certain way. Concerns were raised that the scope of the proposal was too heavy handed. Support was discussed because the grants would provide additional ways to improve access beyond trails or other details of the current proposal.
- Deb Hamilton made a motion to attempt to secure grants/funds (from CPA/MassTrails, etc) in order to propose a separate undertaking to improve the current trails, and extend the All-Access portions further around the shoreline of the pond. Mike Welch seconded the motion, and it was denied by a vote of 5-3.
- Members of the Open Space Committee started leaving the meeting, as they had their own meeting scheduled.
- Patricia Reeser offered to present additional proposals at a future date, and discussed a little more of what the next steps would entail, including meeting the deadlines for a few different grant proposals.
- Patricia mentioned that there is the formation of a n Invasive species sub-committee and Deb Hamilton will represent Mill Pond
- Discussion regarding the WNBOH request for input from the MPC on the current residents only limitation on parking at Mill Pond. Committee members discussed the difficulty and characteristic of enforcing the current restriction, as well as other rules and regulations that that currently in place. Members discussed that our response should be based on current Fed and State regulations, and that ultimately we should defer to the decision being made by the WNBOH.

- Ryan Goodwin made a motion to table further discussion, and the vote was unanimous.
- Discussion of trail marker and mapping project. Members reiterated that they are in favor of this proposal, we acknowledged our previous unanimous vote and we will move forward with funding and proposal revision and execution. Additional related topics included maintenance on some of the current bog bridges and inclusion of the Natural Features/Species/Historical informational plaques with the current marking and mapping project.
- Discussion of Invasive Species and water quality with reiteration that Deb Hamilton will sit on the OSC Invasive Species sub-committee
- Discussion of the Alm Cemetery located within the Town Forest property that borders the Mill Pond recreation area, and how it should be maintained and cared for. Possibilities included brush and tree removal and some type of identification
- Discussion regarding schedule for future MPC meetings. Members decided to meet quarterly, with special meetings to take place if necessary
- Next meeting on March 10th, 2021
- Meeting adjourned at 8:52pm