

July 31, 2019
Clinton Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes
4:30pm
Clinton Parks & Recreation Building
560 High Street

Call to Order: 4:30

Attendance:

Ed Verrier, Matt Kobus, Jodi Breidel, Rosa Kairit, Intern- Courtney Tomolo

Guests: Facilities Director Russ Karlstad

Frannie Hodge – Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust (CGCT)

Facilities Update:

- Russ Karlstad to provide an update on Splash Pad
- CP&R Building Fence

-Jodi addresses meeting and invites Russ to talk about facilities update

-Russ said no real updates, reaching out to people about getting splash pad fixed; he has gotten calls back, but people are busy.

-Russ says transition (of directors) went well, parks look good.

-Question about lights at Vale Street; will they be done by spring 2020?

-Russ confident Little League side lights will be done by spring 2020, not confident about softball side

-Top of list for winter plans, spring kickoff, money in the budget

-Jodi on CPR fence; asks if want to address fence piece

-Ed says talked with Rosa, when events at CPR building, kids run out on the sidewalk. Safety issue, want to be able to keep kids secure in area.

-Russ says want to put a gate between CPR building and Fuller field.

-Russ says contracted fences at middle school; fencing has been delayed due to weather issues

CALL Monument & Rockbestos Property - moved up to “Facilities Update”

-Jodi: *Make a note – Clinton Area Little League monument and Rockbestos/Suprenant Property discussions under the Parks & Rec heading be moved up (assuming Russ has the time to address). Russ can accommodate.

- CALL Monument

-Matt thinks base will be \$2200 for granite. Little League to look at base options for some stone; reached out to local landscaper, might be more cost efficient but still aesthetically appealing.

-\$3600 total, hoping to have some flexibility on seeking material

-Russ says Little League has to present it, can't vote on it, up to board to decide

-Matt explains Russ' involvement of maintaining grounds, stating this as a reason to transfer monument discussions to him

- Rockbestos/Suprenant Property
 - Matt reached out to Rosa about projects
 - Town owns Rockbestos property which could be a resource for Parks & Rec
 - Requested Chair to spearhead movement, start moving forward
 - Town has ideas on what to do with property
 - No park in that neighborhood
- Rosa spoke with Ed months ago about possible park
- Matt says Skateboard Park and Dog Park locations have been discussed
- Parks should be 5 mile walking distance from people's homes
- Ed says he spoke about that property months ago
- Ed makes a motion to table this matter until we have the whole board present to discuss
- Jodi explains she wants to read Yoanna's comments:
 - July 26th, Yoanna sent an email. Nothing to add for agenda items this month but would like to make it a priority to address Skateboard Park by creating subcommittee with community input to discuss concerns, ideas and favorable locations. Can't even think about improving parking at Savage Field until this matter is addressed.
 - Topic can wait another month or two; maybe develop a master plan?
 - Have heard about creating a Dog Park over the years; originally considered including one in Savage Field Renovation Project but were seriously challenged due to space constraints. Want to discuss needs of community that haven't been met yet in reference to potential new recreation space. Relocating sports park is a high priority and our first commitment.
- Matt is trying to form a committee to get into this property while it's hot
- Jodi concludes reading Yoanna's comments, opens up to questions
 - Matt prefers to not wait, other people have other ideas for property; so we need to get ahead. Go public and get public support. Waiting another month or two would not be beneficial.
 - Ed says we should wait for the whole committee before going forward with topic and says it's only right they have a say.
- Jodi asks if anyone seconds motion; motion is denied. Decisions are not being made, just want to move forward. Property needs to be inspected, surveyed and plans need to be drawn.
- Russ says need a common voice, to create best recreational experience in Clinton we can; it's' what everyone wants. Everyone on board with that space being a P & R space; once public knows, they will support.
- Dedicated Little League spot would be great
- Bring in someone we trust to look into it, create sketches. Keep it active (social media, ads, etc.)
- Russ says we need to be unified; he's been approached by others about the property
- Jodi thinks everyone is on board; asks Ed if he has more concerns
- Russ says he's more concerned about voting tonight; Ed wants to make sure everyone has a say
- Russ says we need the public behind us - positivity, let the people know
- Ed says people want more fields and rec space

- Russ agrees we need more rec space
- Jodi asks if Russ is on board with it being rec space and asks if he is interested in joining a committee for it; asks Rosa and Matt.
- Matt gives ideas for parks, and interested in spearheading it
- Rosa offers to start light public searching, an online survey of what the town wants, can drop questions about property subtly
- Matt says many social media posts have picked up traction, i.e., dog park
- Russ says we don't want a parking lot, want green and interactive
- Events at Vale Street; parents have been complimenting the park
- Jodi makes motion to appoint Matt as spearhead for this effort for building a committee made up of commissioners, director of parks and facilities and general public, any town officials/orgs that could benefit from exploring a recreation facility at 172 Sterling Street.
- Ed asks what the board is going to pursue down there, asks who's on the committee
- Jodi explains all stakeholders
- Rosa says at least 5 people, facilities, herself, a commissioner or 2, etc.
- Public Comment: agrees on starting a committee, do it as open space; process has public comments.
- Russ doesn't think it's the best idea to combine them
- Appoint someone from Open Spaces to these meetings
- Full committee members not yet decided on
- Matt 2nd Jodi's motion, all in favor; 3
- Matt says we could get people together to talk about it and work together on who will be on the committee (5-7 people)

[Russ leaves table at 4:58 pm]

Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust Annual Meeting - July 9th, 2019:

-Frannie Hodge (Trails Subcommittee Chair) explained one of their projects is the development of Mass Central Rail Trail in Clinton and have made progress since she met with us in March. Focused on it for annual meeting.

- Rail Trail: suspended in 1962, Clinton section moved when reservoir put in
- Clinton is on mile 68 to Northampton, mile 36 to Boston; 104 miles total
- Completion of trail is priority of conservation, for nearly 20 years
- Economic benefit to communities, i.e., Erie Canal Trail
- First looked at Vale Street playground section, CSX hard to get in contact with
- Funds from Clinton Home Foundation, Community Foundation of North Central Mass, believed (in 2015) it to be enough to purchase railroad, but is now worth more money
- Purchase & sale agreement in place before raising funds; \$10,000 an acre
- Based on current agreement, must be closed by Dec. 2020
- Need to know the status of the tunnel, would not separate tunnel from purchase
- Close it or develop it for trail?
- Working on completion of Phase 1 of environmental review
 - Inspection of tunnel
 - Applied for grant to inspect, not granted it
 - Want to do a more limited inspection

- Originally wanted to check structural integrity; want to know what would need to be done to make it open as a trail.
- Want to make sure it won't fall down, not get all the details, next grant application
- May partner with Town of Clinton on acquisition like with Ciesluk Property
- Town fronts money, we would match the funds; town gets money back
- Put up mile markers around trail to raise awareness of railroad
- DCR watershed approved historic marker, put in DCR kiosk
- CGCT wants to educate about Rail Trail
- Panel discussion at meeting
- Didn't get grant because separate; DCR trails group has commissioned a feasibility study for this section. They want to understand that before giving more grants about trail.
- Peter Sutton a part of Mass Trails Committee, in charge of all bike and pedestrian ways
- Requested follow up with DHP
 - Can do tunnel inspections
 - Not a complete inspection, looking to see if feasible path for trail
- Ed asks how long is the tunnel; answer - about 1000 ft.
- On website for paranormal activity; people in it all the time
- Matt asks how much property surrounding tunnel would be included in purchase?
 - Railroad owns 10 acres
 - 11.1 acres would be the purchase at \$10,000/acre
 - *FRANNIE SHOWS PLANS ON LAPTOP*
 - Want to make it more accessible
 - Put some fencing and signs at both ends of the tunnel (warnings), "At your own risk"
- Frannie says tunnel and crossing done at the same time would be ideal. Goal to run a contest with some engineering schools. Clamshell Road worst part of tunnel, very wet with beaver activity. Need to purchase as is, but they'd like to know what's there. If purchase completed in 2020, they'd first like to put gates and signs around tunnel. Members and volunteers needed; eagle scout projects.
- Booth at Olde Home Day, talking about a chili-cook off in the autumn using parks facilities
- Rosa mentions 9/20 to Frannie; says they can put up a booth
- Frannie says town equipment could be helpful in making it safe
- Matt asks when the Open Space Plan expires; Frannie says end of 2020

[Frannie leaves table at 5:24 pm]

Administrative:

- Review and Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes--
 - 5/29/2019 & 6/26/2019 (Regular Monthly Meetings)
 - 5/22//2019 & 6/5/2019 (Interview Sessions)

- Matt Kobus makes a motion to review and accept 5/29, 6/26, 5/22, 6/5 without changes
- Motion passes

Parks and Recreation:

- Meeting Minutes
 - Process and Responsibility moving forward (Jodi Breidel)
 - Jodi says Courtney will be doing the minutes
 - Jodi says Matt is Secretary and will be doing the minutes here on out
 - Rosa confirms Courtney will continue doing the minutes until she leaves and task will move to Matt after

Jodi gives Rosa the floor

- Rosa gives update on Discover Clinton “Sidewalk Sales” on August 10, 2019
 - Safety, resources, sponsoring a band
 - part of High Street blocked off
 - Rosa confirms part of High Street is open, mentions funds and police detail as reasons, liability insurance, etc.
 - Rosa explains other stores are moving down, have tables and tents
- Outdoor Movie
 - Usually held weekend right after Olde Home Day
 - This year it will be sponsored at Olde Home Day instead
 - “Wonder Park”
- Go4Life Walk - Clinton Senior Center
 - At Central Park
 - Courtney’s idea: turn it into a Monopoly Board game
 - Complete 1 mile, put into a raffle
 - Given grant to sponsor stuff for the walk

Department Issues

-Department Updates - Open Discussion

- Jodi asks if there are any issues
- Ed asks about tournament. Matt said it was awesome!

Jodi adjourned meeting at 5:35 pm