

October 28th, 2020
Clinton Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes
6:00pm
Clinton Parks & Recreation Building
560 High Street

Call to Order: 6:05pm

Attendance:

Director Rosa Kairit via zoom, Chair John Baird, Secretary Amanda Agnitti via zoom and Commissioner Mike Garofoli. Frannie Hodge from Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust

Administrative:

Review and Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes - Mike motions to accept minutes, Amanda seconds, All in favor

Parks & Recreation:

Open Space Plan- Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust

Planning tool to get funding from the state. Need an open space plan in order to apply for grants. It is up for renewal next year. Suppose to be updated every 5 years. Typically we have gotten ours updated in 7 years. It will have to be updated next year. Mike asks if there is a need for additional members. Frannie indicates their likely will. Members from the past Parks & Recreation Commission have participated. A good representation of the town committees and boards. John asks the difference between the conservation committee and the Open Space Committee. John asks Frannie if she is asking us to be the sponsor. Frannie responds yes. John asks if she has asked any of the other boards or committees. Frannie has come to us first. The current plan is located on the Parks & Recreation website. Frannie indicates what needs to be updated in current plan. Mike asks what parcels of property all of this encompasses. First you identify what lands are already protected. Identify others for other reasons. Along rivers for water protection. The biggest part of the plan is identifying goals and objectives then figuring out which ones you can do in the time frame. It was very challenging doing the first one. Mike has some questions later about two particular parcels. In the process what typically happens is you figure out who is going to be on the committee, then that committee meets, and then you start scheduling workshops or surveys to get public input. We have done a combination in the past. We need to think of other ways to get people engaged. Possibly a facebook page. Rosa has a big distribution list. Trust has a big distribution list. Then update the plan based on the input. Mike asks if they are hampered in any way with rules and procedures or protocol. You have strict guidelines? Frannie says yes, there are recommendations from the state.

Have to follow open meeting law. Mike asks about using social media. Frannie says it could be okay but we would have to be careful & look into it. John asks if Parks & Rec were to sponsor what would she need us to do. Frannie indicates we would need to form an Ad hoc committee to start working on the plan, you would reach out to the other boards and commissions and ask for their participation. Mike asks about an Ad Hoc Committee, does that mean a sub committee here amongst us? Or adding volunteers? Frannie says you would name it officially a sub committee of the parks & recreation. Mike would we need to approve members or is that something that we divide per board? Frannie says that is a good question, she doesn't recall what they did last time. Bill Connelly suggests Phil Duffy as a resource. Frannie says she called him today and awaiting a callback. She & Phil have been on the committees together. John asks how long is this plan going for? Frannie says they are good for 5 years. John asks when forming the Ad Hoc committee, is that just with parks & rec or are we combining other committees. Frannie indicates you will want other people from within the community. Planning Board, Select Board, Conservation Commission, DPW if they wanted to. The Parks and Recreation would reach out as the sponsor to these boards and committees. Mike asks if getting a sponsor is the threshold for getting it going? Frannie indicates it should be sponsored by an organization in town and she has come to us first. Mike asks about two pieces of property, Supernaut building on Sterling St, he has always envisioned a second Vale Street. Rosa indicates this was already a sub committee for that parcel. Frannie indicates it is not an ideal site for a park. Mike asks about a parcel near Vale by the railroad tracks, he has always envisioned a second central park. Frannie indicates it is in the plan and how it connects through town. Mike asks who owns the property that abutts Vale Street from Water st to Green st.? Frannie indicates some of it is right away for gas line, some is private owned, some is owned by the railroad, & maybe some of the companies on Green Street. The parcels are identified in the Open Space Plan. Mike asks about the old town beach. Frannie indicates it has been in the plan but it hasn't come to fruition. John indicates its a good idea & partnership.

Amanda motions to sponsor, Mike seconds. All in favor.

Update on the Rail Trail- Awarded the Mass Trails grant, approval from town, to partner with the acquisition of the part of the trail that runs from the tunnel to the Berlin town line. Hoping acquisition goes through by December 2020. Waiting for appraisal, state wants to make sure property is worth what we are paying for it. Then the tunnel will be closed. The town will then own it. We don't want it open while remediation is taking place. We are in the acquisition phase. When the acquisition is ready to go through we will put up fencing to secure the tunnel and meet with the police & fire department to confirm what they said previously about fencing it. The section of the trail from Raucher Farm to Bower cuts off to a private woodlands trail we can open. Less than three quarters of a mile. It will be rough until we do other development. Much of that will get talked about in the next Open Meeting Plan. Mike asks about Grants & if Frannie wrote it. She did, along with other members of the trust. There will be others to apply for. The trust has applied for four. Two were related to Rauscher Farm and they didn't get them. Two were for the tunnel, they did not get the inspection awarded but got the acquisition one. Discussion about grant writing.

Department Updates - Scarecrow Contest, not as many people in attendance but positive feedback on doing something with the community at a social distant. Alternative care is still going until told otherwise from Board of Health. Babysitting course coming up November 10. Two staff members are self quarantining till they get test results back. Alternating staff so staffing the department isn't an issue. November 4th meeting with the Select Board.

New & Old Business/Open Discussion- Mike noticed religious organizations using the park, do they get prior approval for or just done? Rosa says we have a form they fill out and they contact her whether they fit within the guidelines.

Mike motions to adjourn at 6:46, Amanda seconds, All in favor.