

Winchendon Community Park Committee

(formerly Ingleside Utilization Committee)

June 24, 2019 Minutes

Present: Dave Romanowski, Keith Bussier, Jordan Comeau, Ken LaBrack, Jane LaPointe, Tiffany Parkhurst, Dylan Romanowski,

Absent:, Dawn Bilodeau, Guy Corbosiero, Miranda Jennings Marcia MacDonald

Public: Rick Lucier, Anthony Findley, Jenna Whitaker

Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m.

Business

1. Park Usage

- a. Murdock Cross Country Team – Anthony Findley and Jenna Whitaker
 - Dates for park use: August 22-November 16. Practice is 4-6 p.m. Meets 3-6 p.m. 9/17, 9/24, 10/8. Jenna will send schedules to Tiffany.
 - Meets and practice starts and ends at main field by entrance
 - Signs: will post temporary signs during to insure safe use of trails. Request by WCPC: they cannot leave trail markings/flags after meets or practice.
 - Signs: request by WCPC to post a sign at the entrance of the Park informing other users that Park is open & Meet is in Process.
 - Offer to help with train maintenance
 - Motion made & approved: for Cross Country Team usage of Park.
- b. Scout Pack 193 – **Tiffany** will contact Kayla Maine: have they filed with Town Manager for use of town property; request to attend July WCPC meeting
- c. Girl Scout Day Camp – Tiffany. Will not happen this year; lack of enough adult volunteers
- d. NQTA Serenity Walk, July 20 – first of a series of regional trail walks with veterans, first responders, etc. Focus on healing power of nature. Done in partnership with Veteran's organizations. Will walk all the trails in the WCP.
 - Need Trails and lawn to be mowed, clear: **Dylan, Keith, Rick**
 - WCPC is invited to attend, participate in outreach.
- e. Winchendon Garden Club, July 11 – Will be touring Winchendon gardens. Plan to stop for lunch at the WCP at noon. Have requested a tour, brief history and future plans.
 - Need Trails and lawn to be mowed, clear: **Dylan, Keith Rick**
 - WCPC members expressed interest in attending; anyone available is welcomed. Question of how interested Garden Club might help

2. Community Work Days & Priorities

a. WCPC is not ready to run a workday on June 29

b. Discussion:

- Original plan/intent for the Community Park: it would be developed as interested people/groups from the community got involved to make it happen. A key role of the WCPC is to make this possible.
- How do we get other groups involved? Consider a pilot with the Masons.
- How engage individuals like Corey St. Pierre and Jim Holly?
- Need for project leaders (doesn't have to be WCPC members) to take on projects, to recruit volunteers
- Note: **Tiffany** has been maintaining the WCP volunteer list – started several years ago during the Fall Festivals.
 - This list can be used by project/priority leaders to recruit volunteers – to let people know about volunteer opportunities

c. Priorities/Goals

- Trails – Until more people/groups are involved, will maintain the existing trails and not expand/open new trails that have been identified
 - **Dylan** will organize maintenance of trails.
- Picnic Area: Motion made and approved– Tables are a priority.
 - **Dave** will head. Noted interest of Masons
- Benches
 - Will walk trails and park to identify placement
 - Easy trails: Meadows, Elm Street, Cove Vista
 - **Keith and Rick**: identify locations, build prototype bench from materials harvested on property
 - **Ken** will research benches that can be purchased and assembled
- Signs – **Jordan**
 - Identify/recommend what types of signs and location
 - Town's insurance adviser has recommended signs at the entrance with Park rules and noted the need for other signs (to cover town's liability). WCPC suggested a "no swimming" sign
- Deck – **Ken**
 - Will get designs. May be a Spring 2020 project. TBD
- Barn – **Dylan**
 - Will bring to the WCPC a plan to secure the barn; doors, windows

d. Priority Updates

- Will have 2 minute updates in future meetings on each project/priority.
- e. Accessing money and materials for priority projects
 - Need approval process to spend funds that doesn't have to wait for monthly meetings. Question: can Co-Chairs (and WCPC treasurer) approve requests? **Dave & Jane**
 - Bellette account: need additional names authorized to use the account. **Jane** will follow up
 - f. Equipment purchased for Park maintenance
 - Need to cover operational costs for equipment, i.e. gas.. Per Al Gallant: either get gas in town and be reimbursed or get it at the town barn
 - Need 4 gas cans to be stored in barn
 - Chainsaw: individuals need to take part in two day training before they can use this. Questions – **Jane** will follow up
 - Linda Daigle: can people sign a waiver of liability to use either their own chain saw or the town's/park's ?
 - Al Galant: where and when are upcoming classes
3. **Solstice – Follow up**
 - a. Picnic basket raffle made \$50. **Jane** deposit with Town Treasurer into Park Gift Account
 - b. Volunteers – several people signed up. **Tiffany** will add to the volunteer list that she has been maintaining
 4. **Other Updates**
 - a. Purchase of 8 acres on NE park boundary: Ken
 - Offer was made and accepted. However, purchase must be approved at upcoming Town meeting. Sellers then refused the offer and put the property back on the market. Options of having Robinson Broadhurst purchase the property and give to the town via the WRD were explored but can't work.
 - Article will be placed on Fall Town meeting to purchase the property if it is still on the market (**who will do this: WCPC or Town Manager?**)
 - b. Chili Festival, August 3 – Jordan
 - Jordan asked about the WCPC interest in having a table at the Festival to promote the Park and recruit volunteers. He will sign us up for a place.
 - **Jordan & Dylan** will organize; similar to what was done at Solstice

- c. ConCom – John Walker is working on the filing re trails. Working with Jim Holly on the maps required
- d. Check list for Community Workdays – Jane & Miranda were going to develop this. **Jane** has examples from other community parks; will review and share what may be relevant as the WCPC pursues its priority project and work to engage community volunteers.
- e. Park sponsored events – **Tiffany** raised the question of Park sponsored events, i.e. evening walks, community gatherings for games, fun, etc. This needs to be revisited. Question of how to do this with community volunteer help and not rely on committee members who have taken on other Park related work.

Adjourned: 6:47 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 22th, 5:30 p.m. at the WCP

Agenda: will include

- Approve minutes from May 8, 15, 21
- Update on Priorities/Projects identified at June 24th meeting
- Update/follow-up on topics in #4 above
- Request from Town Manager's office: 1) Inventory of Park keys – who has what; 2) Policy on who is authorized to have keys or to sign them out from Police Station

Approved: July 29, 2019