

Parks and Community Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

2-14-2017

4:00 pm

Mason-Motz Activity Center

Meeting Called By: Karen Jones

Note Taker: Andrea Mittleider

Attendees: Lucky D'Ascanio, Karen Jones, Janet Dye, Sally Bitan, Andrea Mittleider

Parks Division Report:

The crew has been busy with snow removal, trail grooming, and keeping the skating pond clear.

A Falmouth resident has once again offered to sell a portion of his property adjacent to Underwood Park. However, the portion of the property is very small, and would create an awkward property line and would not add a meaningful amount of usable space or improve connectivity or the flow of the Park. Staff will consult with administration.

The town is in negotiations with property owners to acquire open space adjacent to Highland Lake that will provide continuity of the Suckfish Brook Conservation Area across Mast Road. The property contains an eyrie, so road improvement will not begin until the eagles have finished nesting for the season. Wetland mitigation grants and other grant funding will provide for the vast majority of the purchase price.

The town is also interested in acquiring land off Babbidge Road that will improve connectivity of trails in the North Falmouth Community Woods area. The property includes a pond, a blueberry barren, and some cleared land. This project is awaiting word from US Forest Service regarding grant funds.

Lucky reported that the Community Park Connector Committee has submitted recommendations to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Stakeholders Group which is looking at the town as a whole to prioritize bike/ped improvements in the community. The CPCC recommended that a portion of Falmouth Road from the Allens' Bridge to Twin Ponds be upgraded to allow for safer bike/ped access which will in turn create a safe path from the school campus to Community Park utilizing existing trails from across the Falmouth Land Trust McCrann/McLaughlin Property and onto Falmouth Road to Twin Pond Drive and ultimately into Community Park.

FCP Report:

Staff have been working on the spring/summer brochure.

The renovation of the Mason/Motz conference room/activity center is underway. A Grand Opening is scheduled for April 29th from 1-4pm.

Community Programs is hopeful that the additional staff person that we requested in the next fiscal year budget will materialize. The Before the Bell/After the Bell program has been so successful and other increased programming for the Activity Center supports an additional staff person for the department. There has been no additional staff since opening the Mason-Motz Activity Center.

Old Business/New Business:

None.

Next Meeting:

March 21, 2017