

Parks and Community Programs Advisory Committee

5-17-2017

4:00 pm

Mason-Motz Activity Center

Meeting Called By: Lucky D'Ascanio

Note Taker: Andrea Mittleider

Attendees: Lucky D'Ascanio, Melanie Collins, Janet Dye, Sally Bitan, Andrea Mittleider

Minutes Approved: Both the February and April meeting minutes were approved.

Parks Division Report:

Three new summer staff started work on May 16. One more position remains to be filled.

The mowers have been prepped for the season and a new tractor replacement, included in the capitol improvement plan, will allow for faster mowing this year. Two new quality ECHO weedwackers were also purchased.

The crew has been busy picking up branches and limbs from the winter. A new dump trailer purchased last year has been very beneficial, allowing the debris to be brought to public works for composting.

The outside staff lunch area at Town Hall will be improved this year. Funds are already in place. The area will be cleared, leveled, beautified, and fenced off to create a more private setting. The maintenance shed will likely be turned to provide part of the buffer and to allow easier access for workers.

FCP Report:

Programming for the spring and summer is in full force. Camps are filling up.

A new senior services coordinator has been hired.

Old Business/New Business:

The committee reviewed the OV landscaping proposal in the works for the Town Green, which will incorporate many native plants at the request of the Conservation Commission. Committee member, Sally Bitan suggested that hemlocks and junipers are becoming more disease prone, so alternatives to these plants should be considered.

Melanie Collins suggested that a beneficial addition to the plan would be a fountain in the storm water retention pond, both for aeration and to improve aesthetics.

Overall, the committee was pleased with the plan and is looking forward to the improvements.

The Greening of Falmouth 2.0 is well underway. LPAC is working with LMAC, the Conservation Commission, PACPAC and the Falmouth Land Trust to prepare the next plan. The committee has already met seven times to discuss the revision, including holding a four hour tour of open spaces. Topics addressed by the committee to date include individual member expectations for the project, producing and organizing a list of issues the plan should address, review of background materials, and development of a work plan approach. Currently under discussion are the methods by which public input should be obtained and the key question of what should be included in the definition of “open space” so as to complement the town-wide thinking expressed in Falmouth’s 2013 Comprehensive Plan. The “open space” umbrella of the plan may include land that is publicly or privately owned, that has public access or that does not, that is more conservation oriented or more suited to recreational use, and that may or may not be permanently protected. The committee may decide to acknowledge all of these potential “open spaces” but to focus its work and make recommendations for only some of these spaces. Information on the project is available at <http://www.falmouthme.org/long-range-planning-advisory-committee/pages/2017-open-space-plan-update-work>.

Next Meeting:

June 20, 2017