

Norton Park Committee
January 8, 2020 – Regular Meeting
Town Hall – Room 1
127 Norwich Avenue

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2020 JAN 10 AM 11:32

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Robert Misbach, Vice Chair Nan Wasniewski, Katherine Kosiba, Patrick Reading, Alternates Julianna Cameron, Linda Pasternak

GAYLE FURMAN
TOWN CLERK

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Byrne.

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman Mary Bylone, Board of Selectman Liaison Denise Mizla, Director of Public Works Jim Paggioli, Andrew Norton, Sylvina Rowllins, Brett Dimberg.

1. Call to Order

Chair Misbach called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. Additions to Agenda

K. Kosiba requested adding Educational Signage to the agenda and P. Reading requested the addition of Updated Site Plan. These items fall under Item 6.7.

Motion by: K. Kosiba

to add Educational Signage and Updated Site Plan to Item 6.7.

Second by: N. Wasniewski.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

J. Cameron was seated as a voting member in the absence of member K. Byrne.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

K. Kosiba would like Item 7.1.5 to read Park Design instead of Landscape Design. and to add an Item 7.10 entitled Native Plant List to be Considered with K. Kosiba volunteering to be point person.

Motion by: N. Wasniewski

to approve the minutes with additions to the minutes as stated.

Second by: J. Cameron.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

4. Citizens' Comments

First Selectman Mary Bylone thanked the members for the work being done for this project.

5. Correspondence

Several donations have been received, a personal \$500 donation from K. Kosiba with a matching grant from Aetna; a \$300 volunteer matching grant from Aetna in recognition of the volunteer hours K. Kosiba completed for Norton Park in 2019; a \$100 matching grant donation from Debbie and Kevin Byrne in honor of Nan Wasniewski and the Norton family in recognition of the benefits to the community, first in building the dam 300 years ago and now its removal to improve the environment and local wildlife. The matching grant amounts will be determined by Aetna by March 31, 2020.

6. Old Business

6.1 Portland Arch

K. Kosiba presented further information on the Arch including cost estimates, materials used, etc. The plan is to have a pavilion or something similar to the arch to house some of the historic items from the mill.

Andrew Norton presented members with further information on the timeline of the mill property prepared by his father, Nicholas Norton.

S. Rowllins provided copies of the updated site plan.

6.2 Pervious Pavement parking lot

K. Kosiba has visited one site with pervious pavement, pavement that prevents runoff. This would prevent runoff to the river at the parking lot site and possibly be used for sidewalks. Jim Paggioli noted this is more expensive as it is a special order but will help with the potential runoff.

6.3 Publicity

N. Wasniewski submitted an article to be published in the local papers with a photo taken during the walk of the property in November. Discussion followed regarding the timing and topic of the next article.

Selectman Bylone said the Town website and Town FaceBook account will have a place for historic photos and articles pertaining to the Park.

K. Kosiba suggested a program at the Library about the dam removal and impact.

N. Wasniewski suggested those officials involved in the dam removal may present the philosophy of its removal to the Committee and/or public. N. Wasniewski will contact the officials about attending a meeting in March as the February meeting has a presentation from J. Gillotti, Wetlands Officer, to begin at 6:00 pm.

6.4 Thank you to WCC

K. Kosiba reported sending a thank you note to Westchester Congregational Church Outreach Committee for their recent donation.

6.5 Email account status

First Selectman Bylone stated her office will set up the email account but noted it must be monitored on a regular basis. Chair Misbach will monitor the email.

6.6 Glastonbury donor catalog

J. Cameron is requesting the Committee establish a list of items to be listed in a catalog-like publication for the public to choose an item to purchase for the park through a donation.

6.7 Other updates

a. Educational Signage

K. Kosiba noted three categories of Educational Signage:

1. Norton Paper Mill information from photos, family history.
2. (North) Westchester History, settling of Colchester, reference prominent citizens, resurgence of Westchester.
3. Jeremy River, property transfer, dam removal, environmental impact, wildlife in the area and the river.

Different signs, use of materials, style, location, mounting, installation and maintenance, graffiti resistance materials were discussed.

b. Updated Site Plan

P. Reading reviewed the updated site plan. Reading has walked the site and stated there are not a lot of water access areas due to steep drop areas. The plan noted walkways, wall areas – keeping the walls about 1 ½' above grade, location of picnic tables, pavilion, benches, etc. The site plan should take into consideration the maintenance from the Town's point of view in placement of tables, walkways.

7. New Business

7.1 Phases, when does it become a park etc.

Discussion followed about ribbon cutting, opening to the public, etc. Once first stage of remediation is completed, grass is planted, and safety issues are addressed, the area may be open to the public with the understanding that further work will be ongoing. At this stage a ribbon cutting ceremony could be held and when park is completed a dedication ceremony held.

Permits and applications are necessary for some areas of sidewalk construction/repair, coordination with State DOT and Town will be necessary.

Motion by: K. Kosiba

to present the updated conceptual plan designated C.1.1 dated 1/8/20 to the Board of Selectmen for conceptual approval.

Second by: J. Cameron.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.2 Grants: Lion's Club

The Lion's Club has a Night of Giving for grants to be awarded. The application deadline of February 15, 2020. K. Kosiba will take care of the application, present to the Board of Selectmen and to the Lion's Club requesting monies for signage.

7.3 Fundraising

J. Cameron is working on the catalog/flyer. Thoughts of offering engraved bricks, plaques on donated trees, shrubs, along with benches, tables, information signs were discussed.

7.4 Park logo Conversation

J. Cameron presented a draft sketch for a logo, discussion followed on the areas a logo could be used such as the website, catalog, signage. It was suggested to further refine the sketch.

7.5 Signs

What directional signs will be necessary, ie handicapped ramp, parking, etc.

7 Citizens' Comments

Andrew Norton suggested an open meeting for public input. An informational meeting with members of the public giving suggestions as to what they would like to see at the park was discussed. No date was set at this time.

8 Adjournment

Motion by: N. Wasnieski
to adjourn this meeting.

Second by: J. Cameron.

Vote: Unanimous to adjourn.

Chair Misbach adjourned this meeting at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk