

Norton Park Committee
July 13, 2022 – Regular Meeting
Town Hall, Room 1
127 Norwich Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Rob Misbach, Katherine Kosiba, Patrick Reading, Alternates Juliana Cameron and Linda Pasternak.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chair Nan Wasniewski, Kevin Byrne.

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Selectmen Selectman Deb Bates, Wetland Agent Carol Szymanski, Andrew Norton.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rob Misbach called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:35 pm. J. Cameron and L. Pasternak are able to vote due to two absent members.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions were requested.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES MINUTES– JUNE 8, 2022

Minutes of the June 8, 2022, Regular Meeting were presented for approval.

Motion by: P. Reading

to approve the minutes of June 8, 2022, as read.

Second by: L. Pasternak.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

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2022 JUL 15 AM 8:36
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

4. BOS LIAISON REPORT

Selectman Debbie Bates said the ARPA funds for businesses are being distributed, Norton Park is on the list, the Selectmen are working to prioritize the municipal projects, budget discussions are ongoing.

5. FUNDRAISING

K. Kosiba has not had a financial report for some time due to Finance Department changes. A possible letter of targeted solicitation was discussed. Fundraising ideas were discussed.

6. AMENITY FINALIZATION: BRICKS

J. Cameron brought samples of engraved bricks for review. It was determined that the brick from Fundraising Brick Company with laser printing is the brick to go with. Discussion followed about stamped concrete use in various areas along with additional bricks.

J. Cameron suggested each person take a particular item to research for what Phase it will be needed for and materials, if not already decided, such as, where plaques will go by a tree, or a rock, in the ground, materials for the plaques. Items discussed were beam benches, granite benches, educational boards, signage, capstones, engraved signs for plants, trees, etc.

Discussion continued about items and which phase would be appropriate for installation.

Signage will be on next month's agenda for decisions.

7. GRANTS

J. Gigglioti's report is attached to the minutes.

8. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Andrew said the Republican Town Committee has donated \$500 for a tree to be planted at the park.

C. Szymanski said she has contacted the State in reference to having 'porta potties' on the Airline trail and would be a possibility for the park, the request is being reviewed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: J. Cameron
to adjourn this meeting.

Second by: P. Reading.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Chair Misbach adjourned this meeting at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

Hi Everyone,

I wanted to provide an update of the project progress.

At the last meeting we discussed the importance of revising bid documents so the remediation work could be broken into several phases, allowing bids on each phase. By doing so we would be able to establish hard numbers of what the work would cost in 2022 and determine how much additional funding would be needed. In addition, the Town could award a bid for a specific phase that we knew we had adequate funding for. That way at least some work could get done while we worked out any funding issues. The revisions to the bid documents were completed by the Town's environmental consultant, Langan Engineering on 6/13/22 and sent into the State Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), grant program administrator for review. DECD reviewed these documents and had several requests for additional information and (6) comments on the revised bid documents. I met with Dave Hurely of Langan Engineering and discussed the comments and additional information DECD requested. Unfortunately, (2) of the comments required legal review, which meant the Town's attorney had to get involved. Not a huge deal, but something we discussed trying to avoid so we would have more funds to put towards the remediation work. The remaining comments are currently being addressed by Langan. In order to prevent the need for further revisions, Langan, DECD and myself shall be meeting on 7/15/22 to iron out any remaining details before we send it back to DECD.

Equally, if not more important, is the Floodplain Management Certificate (FMC). As we discussed in June, this is a certificate issued by the CT DEEP for work occurring within a flood zone. Much of the site is within the 100 year flood zone and nearly all of the remediation work. This is a significant component of the project because DECD will not allow us to solicit or award bids for the remediation work without first having the FMC. A component of this overall project was the removal of the dam, primarily completed by The Nature Conservancy. We were hoping an FMC was issued for the work to remove the dam and it would cover the remediation work as well. As it turns out, The Nature Conservancy was never issued an FMC for the dam removal because CT DEEP does not require FMCs for dam removal projects. I met with Chuck Lee of CT DEEP and discussed the situation. He explained that unless the permit issued for the dam removal included the remediation work, an FMC would most likely be needed. I was able to obtain the dam removal permit and while it does include work with building demo, it does not mention remediation work. I have asked DECD if they can make the interpretation to utilize the dam removal permit to satisfy the FMC requirement because the remediation work must occur now that the building has been removed. Not sounding too promising though. Fortunately, it looks like the FMC may be easier to accomplish because we have much of the information required for the FMC application. The plans from the dam removal and the plans/ specs for the remediation will go a long way with an FMC application. A big thanks to Julianna who was able to get the dam removal plans from the Nature Conservancy. Both DEEP and Langan agree, a FMC can be easily developed and approved for this project.

As a side note, the flood zone encompassing the property has certainly changed since the dam was removed, meaning the flood zone limits have decreased now that the water can freely run-down stream. However, FEMA has not revised their flood zone mapping in this area. If they had, we might not need a FMC at all. The Town could propose to revise the flood zone limits on the property, but it is a lengthy and expensive process. One that would most likely eat up the remaining grant funds and take a year or so to complete.

Unfortunately, this means we are unable to go out to bid yet. I expected a few comments from DECD on the Bid package and the FMC was the wildcard. I expect the bid documents to be provided for DECD comments by 7/18/22. I am working with DEEP and Langan on the FMC and barring any information I can't get or Langan can't provide, we should be able to submit the FMC application by the end of the month. I do have concerns with the length of time it may take DEEP to approve a FMC and when we are ready to submit, it might be beneficial to reach out to our state reps to see if they can help expedite DEEP's review.

Situation is still less than ideal, but it could be worse, and things are certainly starting to move a little quicker. We are still in good standing with DECD, DEEP is onboard with what we need in way of the FMC and Langan is closing in on the completion of the bid documents. I still have a small glimmer of hope that DECD will allow us to utilize the dam removal permit to satisfy the FMC requirement, but in case they don't, I've already begun the work on the application. While we can't go out to bid yet, I am working to set everything up so that once we are allowed to do so we can solicit bids asap. So you can see, I have attached a component of the draft bid docs, the dam removal permit and The Nature Conservancy plans for the dam removal.

July is looking pretty busy for me. I will be upstate NY all day on 7/13/22 and will most likely not make it back in time for the meeting. I will do my best to get there and if I can't maybe I can call in. If there is significant progress made or any other issues arise prior to the 7/13/22 meeting, I will be happy to provide an update.

As always feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

Best,

Jay