

Norton Park Committee
January 13, 2021 – Regular Meeting
Zoom Meeting

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Director of Public Works Jim Paggioli, Ned Wasniewski, Andrew Norton., Cathy Russi, David Wasniewski, Paul Baldinger, Merrill Collins,

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robert Misbach called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

J. Cameron requested the addition of a Materials List to the agenda.

Motion by: J. Cameron

requested the addition of Materials List to the agenda as Item 7.A.

Second by: P. Reading.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the December 9, 2020, were presented for approval.

K. Kosiba requested a clarification to Item 7. VOLUNTEERS to read “K. Kosiba is aware of one or more people who would like to volunteer to assist on different aspects of this project.” and Item 8. PUBLICITY to add at the beginning, “At an earlier committee meeting there was discussion of writing a letter to property owners nearby the new Norton Park to explain the project, obtain support and invite to a public forum presentation.”

Motion by: K. Byrne

to approve the December 9, 2020, minutes as amended above.

Second by: N. Wasniewski.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Merrill Collins said she is interested in this project.

Paul Baldinger has seen the good work done by this committee and he would like to offer his help.

5. STATUS REPORT FROM J. PAGGIOLI

Public Works Director Jim Paggioli stated the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and Board of Finance (BOF) have approved the purchase of the property bordering the park property, the attorney is preparing the documents for the purchase price of one dollar.

The demolition of the house will be combined with another property and come from the Building and Property Reserve Account. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be sent out to bid within sixty days of formally acquiring the property.

J. Paggioli has not heard from the State due to the holidays, other project priorities and to the Covid-19 virus impact on work. There is no grading allowed in the State Right of Way (ROW) or in the design for this property. It is hoped that feedback from the State will be received by the end of this month. The large berm of material near the edge of the parking lot is temporary. At this time there is a sign referring to the work done on the bridge. J. Paggioli

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will have a sign put up about the project when the remediation work begins. He estimates with the bidding process, bid review and BOS approval, it will be approximately three months for work to begin.

6. VOLUNTEERS

K. Kosiba would like to use volunteers on this project for the informational signs and Eagle Scout(s) to build picnic tables. Discussion followed on the picnic tables being made before the land is ready. With eight regular tables and one handicap accessible table, P. Reading noted storage would be a problem. Chair Misbach will check into a possible storage site.

Motion by: N. Wasniewski

to approve the building of the required number of picnic tables through the local Boy Scout organization as an Eagle Scout project for a local Scout. Different models, materials and construction, and finish will be considered and decided by the committee before the Eagle Scout proposal request is prepared and distributed.

Second by: K. Kosiba.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Chair Misbach introduced Paul Baldinger, who is an architect. P. Baldinger lives near the park area and would like to volunteer his help with documents and design development. His company allows time for pro bono work.

K. Kosiba has suggested asking students at the Naugatuck Community College to explore possible involvement for design and planting lists. There are other colleges, such as Goodwin College (works with pervious pavement) that may be interested in this project. K. Kosiba will draft a letter to the colleges.

7. PUBLICITY

K. Kosiba and N. Wasniewski are working on a draft letter to send to surrounding property owners explaining the work going on for the park including maps, the fundraising brochure and inviting feedback. The letter has been sent to committee members for review. The next step is to make a list of the potential recipients and to receive approval from the BOS.

Letters will be drafted for the businesses and the non-profit organizations in town.

7.A MATERIALS LIST

J. Cameron has prepared an updated materials list that will be sent to members. P. Reading stated there has to be a number to raise funds. P. Reading will use the materials list and what has been submitted previously to prepare documents for members to review.

8. FLYER DISTRIBUTION

A discussion of a mass mailing of the flyer was discussed in the Fall and it was decided to wait until after the first of the year. However, at this time, the flyer must be revised as all the granite benches and wood benches are sold.

9. FUNDRAISING UPDATE

9.1. Amenity Reservations

The proposed number of benches have been spoken for and those donations total \$11,760.

Capstones and 8 ½” x 8” and 4”x 8” bricks are available and may be engraved.

9.2. Monetary

Monetary donations now total \$7,746. K. Kosiba has not received the latest information from the Town Finance Department.

10. GRANTS

K. Byrnes reported that an application for a \$20,000 grant has been approved by the Board of Selectmen and sent to the Community Foundation of Connecticut. The historic and environmental significance of the park property were noted and the money would be for a safe, open access for Phase I. The process for this grant has helped to lay the groundwork for other grant applications. The Colchester Lions will not have grants available this year due to no fundraising activities. K. Byrne will pursue grants through Eversource and local banks.

11. FORUM

Another forum is planned for the “neighborhood” group in February and one for the general public in March. Chair Misbach will check the schedule with the library.

12. CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

Merrill Collins said she is an interested neighbor of the property and asked if the date of the next forum would be in the ‘neighbor letter’ that will be sent out.

Andrew Norton felt the property owners for the neighborhood letters should be expanded considerably and named some of the streets he felt should be considered as the neighborhood.

Cathy Russi hoped that photographs would be taken to show the progress that will be taking place. C. Russi said she has worked with the Scouts and it does take time for them to raise funds for their projects but they are a good resource.

Dave Wasniewski asked if there are enough funds to complete the remediation. P. Reading explained that the remediation will be completed under the contract. Contaminated soil will be removed, clean fill brought in and monitoring wells will be installed. D. Wasniewski said he thought the letters to neighborhood mailing area should be extended to Jones Hollow Road residents. The area was considered part of north Westchester before Route 2 was constructed.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: N. Wasniewski
to adjourn.

Second by: P. Reading.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Chair Misbach adjourned this regular Meeting at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk