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Open Space Comm. Minutes 04/05/06

Open Space Committee

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Approved May 3, 2006

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm in the Town Hall, First Floor Conf. Room. In attendance: Ann LeRoy, Elizabeth Karpati, Teresa DeBenedictis, David White, Patsy Kraemer, Michele Hassler, Leslie Mayer, Adam Pachter; Invited guests: John Sanchez and Jimmy Dodge of the Dept. Public Works arrived at 8 pm.

1. Minutes of March 1, 2006 meeting were reviewed, amended, and approved without opposition.
2. Ann LeRoy announced that Roly Chaput has resigned from the Committee; he was the representative of the ARB. It was announced that he would be accessible if needed.
3. Ann reported on the Heritage Landscapes and Freedom's Way initiative of the DCR; the first meeting of this group occurred on March 29 to offer an inventory of sites for consideration for their acknowledgment; a walk-through of the sites to discuss options for their protection and recognition will follow.
4. Ann reported on the Rt. 2A – Summer Street Neighborhood Assoc. get-together of April 4, 2006. The status and future activity for reconstruction of Summer St. were presented at the meeting.
5. Joey reported that discussions with Planning Director Kevin O'Brien indicate that CDBG money will be available for the Open Space Committee for a consultant to help with the update of the Open Space Plan.
6. Announcements:
 - a. Elizabeth Karpati announced the Spy Pond Park "grand" opening will be on April 30; in support of the opening, the library will have an exhibit put together by the Friends of Spy Pond Park showing the process that has created the new park.
 - b. Elizabeth announced the favorable action thus far on the water bodies funding article which will be voted at Town Meeting.
7. We began discussions about breaking down the 2002-07 Open Space Plan to its component parts, that various individuals or small groups would be in charge of for revisions/updates.
 - a. Create the RFP – Ann, Teresa, and Joey
 - b. Vignettes of selected open spaces and management plans – Adam and Leslie
 - c. Inventory and analysis – David
 - d. Accomplishments – 2002-2007: Elizabeth
8. John Sanchez and Jimmy Dodge – Discussion of issues impacting open space areas and management plans
 - a. Graffiti – increasing!
 - i. Patsy Kraemer mentions the Youthwatch program; installation of cameras at Menotomy Manor area
 - ii. Leslie Mayer mentioned Community Murals program as exemplified in Neponset
 - iii. Michele Hassler – expressed concern that this is not an open space issue, but a police issue
 - iv. Jimmy Dodge – problem to maintain areas; priority removal of racial and sexual material, but other material addressed as crews are able to get to the task
 - v. Discussion continues – revealing, but no solutions
 - b. Patsy asks about relationship with "friends" groups

John explains that generally speaking the groups are helpful, but too often DPW is not aware of what the groups are doing; Leslie supports this comment – as some events which should come through Park and Rec. do not. Elizabeth commented that clarification of "who does what" is also needed – so that friends are not hindrance.

- c. Ann inquired re itemization of routine and special tasks so that volunteers would know what they could do –
 - i. DPW Standard procedures available?
 - ii. John Sanchez comments re the difficulty of depending on season employees
 - iii. Patsy asks about parent volunteers
 - iv. Should there be a “friends” coordinator?
 - v. Is there adequate support for volunteers – yes – they need only ask
 - vi. ACTION ITEM: Have a meeting of representatives of the various friends groups
 - vii. ACTION ITEM: Set up a community link for improved communication, on the DPW Webpage – Teresa will look into this
 - d. Need increased frequency of pickup of trash barrels – to keep areas clean
9. John Sanchez discussed the American Council of Engineering Companies – MA (ACEC) award that Weston and Sampson received for the Reservoir Dam project engineering design. A large display item (for Leslie) with collage of the project will be used for the Water Bodies display to be seen in the Town Hall during Town Meeting.
10. NEXT MEETING, 7–8 PM, May 3, 2006 – Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conf. Room.

The meeting was formally adjourned at 915 pm.

Submitted by Joey Glushko