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Open Space Comm. Minutes 12/06/2006

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Approved Minutes

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Present: Ann LeRoyer, Chair; David White, Conservation Commission; Leslie Mayer, Parks & Recreation Commission; Teresa DeBenedictis, DPW; Joey Glushko, Planning Department; Elizabeth Karpati, 20/20; Lisa Decker, Arlington Redevelopment Board; Patsy Kraemer, resident; Adam Pachter, resident.

Absent: Michele Hassler, Cemetery Commission

Guest: Ralph Willmer, VHB

General Business:

- 1) Minutes of the November meeting were unanimously approved as amended. The motion was made by Elizabeth Karpati, seconded by David White. They were prepared by Adam Pachter.
- 2) Update on the 20/20 census survey – two-thirds of the survey this year is related to open space questions. This will help us with our work on the new Open Space Plan.
- 3) There was a meeting on November 6, 2006, regarding the issue of park maintenance. This meeting was sponsored by the Open Space Committee. Twenty-plus people attended this meeting. Discussion covered the role of friendship groups vis a vis the town's responsibilities for maintenance. Also discussed were the policies covering parks and playgrounds.

Open Space Plan

Ralph Willmer from VHB has been hired as a consultant to help us with the Open Space Plan. He has much previous experience preparing Open Space Plans for various other communities. He is an Arlington resident and worked on Arlington's first Open Space Plan.

He told the group that there are several requirements regarding public outreach. The survey is one activity that will be helpful with these requirements. He is suggesting that we hold two workshops in the future, i.e.

- 1) Overview of goals, objectives, vision vis a vis open space. This workshop should be open to the whole community and help in January or February.
- 2) Overview of draft key recommendations, key findings, and the five year action plan. This workshop should seek out reaction to these drafts.

Ralph thinks that the process for developing the new plan should take a total of 5-6 months. He said that updating an existing plan is less rigorous than doing a new plan. Some sections should be easy to update because they don't change that much, i.e. the history.

Ralph will focus on running the public outreach part and putting the plan itself together. The committee will do the rest of the required work. Committee assignments have been made. Ann suggested that we may need some help with the mapping requirements.

Ralph will be meeting with the committee on a regular basis.
Our next meeting will be January 3, 2007.

We scheduled the first public outreach meeting for Monday, February 12, 7-9 pm at Town Hall. Ralph will develop a flyer for the invites for that meeting. We will use all avenues of communication to invite interested parties, including email lists, the web site, the paper, and cable.

The Committee reviewed the various assignments that have been made for committee members, as follows:

*updating of managements plans- everyone

*ADA input requirements - J. Glushko acting as contact person w/ the

Disability Commission.

Section II – Intro

Accomplishments:

A-1 – Elizabeth

A-2 – Patsy & Leslie

A-3 – Patsy

A-4 – Joey

A-5 – Ann

Public Awareness

B-1 – Leslie

B-2 – Leslie

B-3 – Leslie

B-4 – Ann

B-5 – David

Coordination & Management

C-1 – Teresa

C-2 – Joey

C-3 – Ann

C-4 – Ann

Arlington a Green Town

D-1 – Lisa/Elizabeth

D-2 – Patsy

D-3 – Lisa/Elizabeth

Section III

Community Setting - Joey & Ann

Section IV

Environmental Inventory & Analysis- David, Michelle, Lisa

IV-F – Michele

IV-G – David/Lisa

Section V

Inventory of Lands of Interest – Adam/Leslie

Chart - Joey

Section VI

Community Goals – wait on this for community input – VHB will do draft.

Section VII

Analysis of Needs – to be developed

Section VIII

Goals & Objections – to be developed

Section IX

Five Year Action Plan – to be developed

Brian Rehrig from the Arlington Land Trust joined the meeting to report on the Elizabeth Island property, which is now for sale. He told the group that the owner Elizabeth Sacco has approached various organizations vis a vis protecting this piece of land. Brian and Ann have met with her. She wants both to protect the land and to realize some income from the sale of it. The Land Trust has talked with her attorney about their interest. She is now testing the market. The land is

assessed for \$126,000.

Brian said that people have been offering to help financially towards the acquisition of the island. If the Land Trust succeeds in striking a deal with the owner, they would have to do fundraising for it, including grant seeking and private fundraising. Leslie would like to see the town be a part owner of the island and a contributor to the purchase. David White reported that the ConCom has some money available for an acquisition like this. Mass. Audubon has some interest in being involved, Brian reported, and would want to work through the Land Trust.

The Committee recommend doing a letter to the Advocate supporting the efforts of the Land Trust. Ann will draft a letter and distribute it to the members.

Joey mentioned to the group that the Bicycle Committee has asked the Open Space Committee to send a letter to DCR supporting the Alewife Plan. The Committee will take up this issue at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm.