

Public Meeting Minutes No. 1

Project Name: Hill's Hill Mountain Biling Trails and Skills Area

Project Number: ENG23-3028

Date: November 15, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting (Town Zoom),

Attendees / Contact List:

Name	Title	Organization	Attend	Phone number	Email address
Joe Connelly	Director of Recreation	Town of Arlington	X		jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Phil Lasker	Parks Commission	Town of Arlington	X		phil_lasker@yahoo.com
Scott Walker	Parks Commission	Town of Arlington			swalker17@hotmail.com
Henry Fenollosa	MTB Trails Working Group	Town of Arlington	X		hfenollosa2024@spyponders.com
Josh Fenollosa	MTB Trails Working Group	Resident of Arlington	X		josh@brownfenollosa.com
Brian McBride	Open Space Committee	Town of Arlington	X		brianmcb@outlook.com
Brandon Kunkel	Practice Leader	Weston & Sampson	X	617-960-6977	kunkelb@wseinc.com
Josh Millonig	Senior Project Manager	Weston & Sampson	X	617-459-4304	Millonig.joshua@wseinc.com
Kevin Herlihy	Landscape Designer	Weston & Sampson	X	857-415-3884	Herlihy.kevin@wseinc.com
Brad Siedlecki	Principal / Owner	Pillar Design Studio	X		brad@pillardesignstudios.com
Jason Schiefelbein	Principal / Owner	Pump Trax USA	X		jason@pumptraxusa.com
General Public: Over 78 people in attendance					

This meeting was the initial Public Presentation for the Hill's Hill Mountain Bike Trails and Skills Area project. This meeting included representatives from the design team of Weston & Sampson, Pillar Design Group, PumpTrax USA and the Recreation Committee and MTB Trails Working Group. This meeting was open to the general public and there were over 78 attendees.

General Topics of Discussion:

This meeting conducted to present the findings of the Tree Survey, describe the existing conditions of the site and outline the proposed elements to be installed. Feed back from the Town was encouraged to help define the elements to be installed and how best to fit them into the site.

1. The Davey Resource Group presented their Tree Survey findings. They outlined the process they used to gather the tree inventory. They presented various breakdowns on the species, caliper and locations of the trees. They surveyed over 1,800 individual trees.
2. The design team was introduced by Joe Connelly, a summary of the previous site selection process was given. Weston and Sampson presented the existing conditions and overall site description. Pillar Design and PumpTraxUSA gave an outline of the site elements that are proposed for the project.
3. The presentation was then opened to the public for comment. The following list are specific comments from the public as recorded by W&S:
 - a. **Ben Rudick**, mtn biker – what other mtn bike amenities are in the area, what unique thing can this trail offer. No pump track, drops of various heights in the area currently. Interested in having various skill things for his kids to be able to use.
 - b. **Asia Kepka**, mtn biker – pump track at Harvard stadium made of asphalt, has visited other pump tracks in area, all have access road. Wondering how we get dirt into site?
 - i. Jason – access off summer street for material drop off.
 - ii. Joe Connelly – mentioned bocce court area, said it will depend on design.
 - iii. Phil – emphasizes flatness of parts of site.
 - c. **Lena Nahan** – concerned with narrowness of vegetation and clearing of trees and compacted soil. Concerned with biodiversity.
 - d. **Bruce Pierce** – wants opportunities for higher skill riders, he thinks there's already novice courses in area. Thinks pump track by Bocce is a bad idea.
 - e. **Elaine Crowder** – lives by hill's hill. Concerned with pump track impact on woods. Talked about CPAC options for pump track.
 - f. **Tucker Smith**, High School Senior, mtn biker – has seen better mtn bike infrastructure in Cali. Wants Flow trails and jump lines in woods.
 - g. **Steve Moore**, Tree Committee – happy with tree inventory thoroughness, concerned with soil compaction.
 - h. **Diane Krause** – wants pump track by Bocce.
 - i. **Catherine Fenollosa**, parent of mtn bikers – wants seating for younger kids to watch older kids.
 - j. **Josh Katzman**, uses woods as runner, soccer coach – has seen kids he coaches using the trail after school, concerned with trash collection, likes the project.
 - k. **Rajen Ramchandani**, resident – doesn't like the sound of children's laughter, concerned with noise. Wants mountain bike areas closer to summer street.
 - l. **Grant Cook** – has there been evidence of erosion at site? What will we do to control erosion during design?
 - i. Josh M – there will be stormwater mitigation in construction.
 - m. **David Bean** – concerned that the surface isn't permanent, said Menotany Rocks has turned into sand. Doesn't understand why handicap accessibility is an issue.
 - n. **Wendy Richter**, dog walker – lives off brattle street for 25 years, emphasized importance of multi-use trails, mentioned hours of use.
 - o. **Will Hallahan** – thinks it's a great project, mentioned Dickey park in Nashua.
 - p. **Wynelle Evans** – wants to maintain use for walkers, birdwatchers, wants pump track to be in Bocce.
 - q. **Art Trapotsis**, mtn biker – has two teenagers who bike, likes the design of Kingdom Trails.
 - r. **Elizabeth Carr-Jones** – happy with tree inventory.
 - s. **Jean Rosenberg** – has taught about habitat in schools and at Mt Auburn Cemetery.
 - t. **Teymura Landsverk** – concerned with environment.
 - u. **Leo Fenollosa**, resident – wants pump track in the woods.
 - v. **Marina Popova** – concerned with how small site is, wants some of site preserved as nature.
 - w. **Nicholas Turner**, mtn biker – emphasizes that mountain biking can coexist with wildlife, emphasizes that most trees on site are young and of minimal biological value. Wants pump track in woods.
 - x. **Adam Glick**, mtn biker, president of New England Mtn Bike Association – stewards trail systems. Mentions that Arlington has soccer fields and football fields, this region lacks mtn bike infrastructure. Wants pump track in the woods. Thinks there's opportunity to cut down invasive trees. Says his

Boston Chapter is interested in maintenance. Sees this project geared toward teens and younger users.

4. These are general/non-specific comments from the public as recorded by W&S:
 - a. Consider other trails and areas and what they offer and not duplicate at this site.
 - i. Items that are not close by; pump track and a skills area.
 - b. No shared use (hiking and biking to be separate trails)
 - c. Will the site be able to support other uses and activities? Bird watching, nature appreciation, dog walking, hiking?
 - d. Intend for this site to be a skill building area.
 - e. Trash cans, self regulated cleanup of the area.
 - f. Maintenance of the trails is a concern, dirt trails
 - g. What would the hours of use be? Is there a way to close the park.
 - h. Lights for the pump track?
 - i. Size the elements for various skill levels
 - j. Appreciate the tree inventory.
 - k. Concern about too many trails and elements and the small site.
 - l. Comments regarding saving as much tree canopy as possible. The tree inventory outlines a large number of invasive trees. Some trees are of better quality than others.
 - m. Comments about the pump track in the wood vs. not in the woods were fairly equal, leaning more toward it being in the woods.
 - n. The bocce ball area was mentioned a number of times as a potential location for the pump track. Splitting the project in different areas of the site is a concern.
5. These are comments from the public as recorded by Brian McBride:
 - a. Controversial project. Protect nature. No Pump track in woods.
 - b. Small area. Climate change. Nature for mental health. Protect woods.
 - c. Multiple user needs in small area. Relocate high impact activities near soccer field.
 - d. Noise of biking for neighboring houses is a big problem. Locate walking trails near houses instead.
 - e. Pump track at Bocce court; site too small for everything.
 - f. Need flat area. Woods not good for maintenance.
 - g. Multi user challenge: Hours, separate trails, Move pump track. Small space.
 - h. Need to protect the main walking trail. Tree inventory to protect value trees.
 - i. Preserve nature with tree survey. Balance biking and natural enjoyment.
 - j. Trail in woods is OK but not pump track. Place for animals.
 - k. Put distance between the elements and away from neighbors.
 - l. Good ideas. Safety concerns. Other locations?
 - m. Serve a wide range of bikers. Offer a progression of skills.
 - n. Make design versatile, skills, pump track, use slope.
 - o. Take care for erosion.
 - p. Include young kids. Have a gathering area.
 - q. Fields are busy. Use woods to gather safely. Trash management improvement needed.
 - r. Manage erosion, unlike other town trails which are eroded. Emergency access? Realistic?
 - s. Pump track is nice in the woods.
 - t. Bike and pump track in the woods feels good.
 - u. Loves seeing animals when biking. OK w pump track at bocce court.
 - v. Pump track can be harmonious w woods. Manage invasives.
6. These comments are key points from letters and emails received by the Town of Arlington:
 - a. Balance. Pump track outside woods.
 - b. Recreation while preserving environment. Skills/Pump Track outside woods.
 - c. Likes woods. Noisy. Busy pump track ruins habitat.
 - d. No pump track in woods. Trails for non-bikers too.
 - e. Balance biking w nature walking. No skills or pump track in woods.
 - f. Preserve woods - nothing built in core woods.
 - g. Don't damage trees. Attention to safety and response. Maintenance.

- h. Environmental concerns, rogue trails, e-bikes, natural barriers will impact wildlife.
- i. Nature sensitive trail design; pump track location that won't compromise green space.
- j. Protect remaining wild green space, especially for animals.
- k. Supports activities, but has 3 concerns: noise, parking and nature impact as neighbor.
- l. Noise concern and after hours concerns as neighbor.
- m. Balance need to protect natural environment. Locate skills/pump track outside woods.
- n. Locate skills, pump track outside woods.
- o. Great idea for many users especially near bike path.
- p. Biker who advises locating pump track in the woods, like Russell Mill.

Action Items:

1. Design Team to review meeting notes and begin to layout potential design options.
2. Next meeting TBD.

END OF NOTES

These notes are intended to represent the topics discussed accurately. Please notify author of any correction, clarifications, or additions upon receipt. Revised notes will be redistributed; otherwise, these notes will serve as the record for this meeting.