

BILLINGS PARK COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes- DRAFT

Subject to Approval

4 May 2020

4 pm

In Attendance:

Billings Park Commission Members: Sam Segal, Randy Richardson, Alison Clarkson, Don Wheeler, Chris Lloyd, Julian Underwood

Woodstock Town Manager: Bill Kerbin

National Rivers and Trails: Jennifer Waite

Audience: Bill Corson, Linda Smiddy

1. The Chair called the **meeting to order** at 4:05.

She asked to add an agenda item asking Bill to provide an update on the Select Board's status of a Faulkner Park working group.

2. **Minutes** from 9 April 2020

Don made the motion to accept the meeting minutes from April 9th.

Discussion: None

Motion accepted unanimously.

3. **BPC membership**

- a. Re-Appointments and terms

Bill was asked if the proposed 3 year terms and grandfathering in the membership was agreeable to Bill. Bill said that it was.

Don, Sam, expressed that the terms sounds good.

Bill asked if the terms were an end date or start date.

Alison clarified that it was a end date.

Alison clarified that the BPC would ask the Select Board to reappoint these members with terms running until the proposed date.

Proposed Terms and Classes

Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Alison Chris	Don Sam	Julian Randy

- b. Possible New Members –

Alison asked Bill if the Select Board could advertise the opening and all to reach out to prospect new members and for them to make themselves known to the BPC and Bill Kerbin.

4. Faulkner Park Conveyance Update

Bill stated that the Select Board has decided to table the appointment of a Faulkner Trust conveyance Task Force until the governor decides that larger groups can meet in public. It was expressed that this would be soon but the timing is unclear at this point.

5. **Trail Usage** – Jennifer Waite had sent information to the BPC showing great increase nationally in the use of trail systems, especially local trails. BPC discussed their observations – which confirmed a big increase in the use of all of Woodstock’s trails. Randy offered that the Upper Valley Trails Alliance app “Trail Finder” usage has increased 140% increase from a year-ago.

6. State of the Parks - 2020 stewardship and trail clean-up

Alison gave a shout out to all those who have been helping maintain the BPC trails. Should a Mt. Tom and Mt. Peg trail clean-up be scheduled or is it too soon?

Randy observed that seasonal trail maintenance is the most noticeable need but nothing urgent stands out.

BPC discussed establishing a mowing schedule for the paths on Mt Peg. The Woodstock Resort Corporation has mowed these paths in the past – and with tick season upon us BPC was concerned about getting started. Don will speak with Nick Mahood and TWC to see what is possible given their staffing situation.

BPC and Jennifer expressed the need for coordination with the TWC and other service providers about a specific mowing schedule to be sensitive to insects and evasive plants (parsnips). Key to mow down near Lincoln St. where the poisonous parsnip is gaining a foothold – this is primarily on TWC land.

Alison tasked Randy to head up a BPC trail inventory. Don and Randy take Mt. Tom; Alison, Julian, and Sam take Mt. Peg.

Alison will reach out to the contractor of the bench.

Randy wondered about the flags he has observed. Jennifer stated the flags were from last fall and can be removed after being noted on a map.

7. Mt Peg Kiosks

- a. Replacement for the Trailhead insert
- b. Kiosk for the Mt Peg summit - Summit panel is being revised. Construction of kiosk is being coordinated with Nick and TWC

8. Park Management Plan Update

- a. Jennifer provided an update with a summary of the work with Peter Jensen and the improvement and maintenance of the Faulkner Trust trails.
- b. There is a desire for an annual maintenance plan with oversight and contributions from various entities.
- c. Jennifer expressed a call out for the various partnerships that maintain the Faulkner Trails.
- d. Alison brought up that a drainage issue on the south section of the Summit Trail to Mt. Peg should get on the punch list of trail work.

9. New Business

Linda Smiddy introduced herself as a resident of Woodstock who lives on Mountain Ave Street. She is curious about the August deadline for Kiosks. Jennifer stated the objective of the Summit Kiosk is for information about local, hiking, recreational opportunities. Each call out will have a QR code. The Faulkner Park will have a small call out with info about the Faulkner Park. The August date was determined as a timeline to allow for a timely completion of the kiosks.

Linda asked if there was a usage goal for the Faulkner Park. There is no expectation that the usage of the Park will change. Jennifer summarized that the initial goal of the restoration of the Faulkner Trails was to bring back the trail into alignment with Marianne Faulkner's vision and create a sustainable trail that is user-friendly and easily navigable. The objective of this historic restoration work is to restore the Faulkner Trail's accessibility for health and recreation. Randy expressed that the Upper Valley Trail Alliance wishes to spread the wealth and expand our network of trail support.

10. Next meeting

Proposed June 1st at 4:00.