

BILLINGS PARK COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes- Approved
June 1, 2020
4 pm

In Attendance:

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

Woodstock Town Manager: Bill Kerbin

National Rivers and Trails: Jennifer Waite

Guests: Bill Corson, Linda Smiddy, Wendy Marrinan, Gunnar Norse, Susan Boston and Doug Raymond

1. The Chair called the **meeting to order** at 4:10.

2. Minutes from 5 May 2020

A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes from May 5th.

Discussion: None

Motion accepted unanimously.

All members and visitors to introduce themselves.

Visitors included:Linda Smiddy, Wendy Marrinan, Gunnar Norse, Bill Corson, Doug Raymond and Susan Boston

Motion to amend the minutes to reflect Linda Smitty's residence on Mountain Ave not River Street as written on the draft meeting.

Motion accepted unanimously.

3. BPC membership – update on possible new members

To date we have three people interested who are Bill Corson, Gunnar Norse, Susan **Boston** Letter of interest should be in by June 10th.

Bill reported that the select board will consider the terms for Commissions.

4. Update on Mowing.

Don reported that he consulted with Nick Mahood about the mowing of Mt. Peg. This includes up from Lincoln St, Red Pine Path, Summit trail, and the lower portion.

Don and Alison talked about contracting with Gabe Hathorn for mowing instead on relying on the Woodstock Inn.

5. Update on State of the Parks

BPC trees on Highland Ave Extension

Mark Harris on Highland Ave Ext has approached the Billings Park Commission through Sam about a way to help pay for the removal of trees that are an imminent threat to structure.

Don recommended that we help the homeowners pay for a few trees that are direct threats to a residence. In the past the BPC has paid 50% of the cost of those trees being taken down. In the recent past the BPC has helped with Josh Pauly's trees that were direct threats to the residence.

Alison recommended that we continue to pay 50% for the removal of trees that are direct threat to properties. And, she asked that Bill Kerbin and Don Wheeler visit the property.

Sam suggested that the BPC serve in an advisory capacity to the Town of Woodstock.

Hazard trees on BPC land that are direct threats to structures we would want to recommend that the town pay 100% to mitigate the threat of the tree. If it is a border tree then the town would pay 50%.

Bill will review the town's policy regarding trees on town land that threaten structures on resident's land.

6. Update on Mt Peg on Mowing, Invasives and Kiosks

Jennifer reported that we aware word from Nick about the fabrication of the kiosk.

7. Update on Faulkner Park Working Group

Bill has been working with the Select Board. The Select Board desires to wait to convene a working group until all members can meet in person – perhaps July.

Linda asked about the origin of the July timeline for the convening of a citizen's group.

Linda expressed the desire to begin public meetings to discuss this topic.

Jennifer clarified that the hope is to open up public meetings in July but no meeting has been scheduled.

Wendy asked about how permission to access public lands through private lands works.

Jennifer explained the goal of each group is to create a seamless network of trails through partners working together. The Woodstock Trails Alliance seeks to coordinate the entities involved in the trails.

Wendy asked about the source of funds for the work of the BPC.

Alison explained the work of the BPC is funded by 5% of a trust which is roughly valued at \$300,000.

Linda asked how the book keeping works.

8. New Business

Jennifer report on Park Management Plan

9. Next meeting – June 29th, 4 pm