

BILLINGS PARK COMMISSION

Minutes

30 November 2020

3:30 pm

In Attendance:

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

Woodstock Town Manager: Bill Kerbin

Woodstock Select Board Member: Mary Riley (at 4:10)

Guests: Wendy Marrinan, Ernesto Fernando, Bob Holt

- 1. The Chair Called the meeting to order at 3:35**
- 2. On a motion duly made, seconded and adopted, the minutes from the BPC meeting of 19 October 2020 were approved.**
- 3. Update Selectboard Meeting on new multi-use trail on south border of Mt. Peg Park.** Bill and Alison have signed the MOU with WAMBA. Alison circulated a letter from Rob Wallace, a Golf Ave neighbor, expressing some concerns. She has addressed most of them in her response but the parking issue is a concern in that area. We decided that parking is something we need to discuss further with the potential of approaching the Select Board about Golf Ave parking.
Julian brought up Randy's idea for a 1-2 page Q and A about the new trail. Perhaps a press release about clarifying this proposal.
Randy will begin drafting a Q&A. When should we more publicly role this out?
Randy proposed distributing the Q&A soon. And, we should consider doing a press release for the spring when work is being done or at trail opening.
- 4. Update on the Mt Peg Summit Kiosk installation**
The map insert has gone to the printer and Nick Mahood's team is planning on installing the kiosk before the ground freezes.
- 5. Update on Park Management Plan**
Jennifer had emailed us that there is no new update on the Park Management plan. Alison reminded us that a next step is to complete the Ecological and Natural Communities part.
Here are the links Kent McFarland had sent about Mt Peg and Mt Tom's natural communities:

Here is the Vermont Atlas of Life on iNaturalist:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/vermont-atlas-of-life>

Kent created a place in iNaturalist for both Mount Peg Park and Billings Park. Click on the tabs for Observations and then select grid, list or map to view them. Every observation in these two areas is automatically added to these pages.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/places/mount-peg-park-woodstock#>

<https://www.inaturalist.org/places/billings-park-woodstock>

6. Update on Faulkner Park Task Force meetings

The next meeting is this evening and Alison reports that it is going smoothly so far. Randy provided an update that the first meeting is was process oriented. Wendy Marrinan reiterated what Randy reported and said that tonight's meeting is focused on how the past arrangement has worked out.

7. Fall Trail Clearing & Clean Up/Mowing etc

Becky reported that the VYCC did a great job with some drainage and clean-up projects on Cemetery Trail on Mt Tom. Alison wondered if there is time to work on the Mt. Peg drainage issues, especially around the first knob of the summit trail. Randy expressed his hope that we can publicize the trail maintenance projects in the future. Building community support is an important aspect of trail maintenance. Julian wondered if a partnership between BPC and Woodstock Elementary could be established for trail appreciation around National Trails Day in late-May or early-June that would rally the WES community to be active stewards of the Mt. Peg trails.

8. Planning for 2021

Continued work with Strategic Planning (1. How does the BPC fit into the larger issue of parks and public spaces in the Town of Woodstock? 2) How the BPC prioritize initiatives?).

Julian reported that this work will continue with a SWOT.

Alison expressed hope that this is part of a larger conversation with the Town of Woodstock.

9. Next meeting

Quick Meeting December 14th. At 4:00