

Billings Park Commission
Minutes – DRAFT
17 October 2022
4:30 pm

In Attendance:

Billings Park Commission Members: Rebecca Williams, Wendy Jackson, Randy Richardson, Phil Robertson

Woodstock Trustee Member: Bill Corson

Visitors: Wendy Merriman, FFP

1. Becky called the meeting to order at 4:31
2. Motion to approve the September minutes by Phil Robertson
 - a. Randy seconded
 - b. Approved unanimously
3. Addendum – start search for new BPC member as Sam Segal has resigned from the Commission.
 - a. Becky will inform the town for posting of the position publicly in paper and listserv
 - b. There was discussion as to whether there is value in our interviewing potential members and making recommendations to the Select Board. All in attendance were in favor.
4. Addendum – Becky put forth rescheduling the November meeting from the 21st to the 28th because of the Thanksgiving holiday. All were in favor.
5. Grant Proposal Follow Up
 - a. The grant application is in but the timeline for approval is unclear. We need to follow up.
 - b. Should we have a contingency plan in case the funding doesn't come through so that work can still be completed?
 - c. There was discussion about the Rt 12 trail and if it should connect to the road trail, although this is out of our jurisdiction
 - d. We discussed scouting our trails and creating priorities so we can be specific with our input. A hike was scheduled for 10/24 at 4:30 pm to evaluate trail conditions and come to some agreement on what our targeted areas for improvement would be.
6. Budget and Expenditure Process
 - a. Rebecca shared that the paperwork for TD Bank had to be redone, so we are not able to write checks yet.
 - b. Randy will hold off on ordering the warning signs for the Precipice Trail, unless we can be invoiced for them and pay later.
7. Ongoing Business Updates
 - a. Girl Scout Cabin
 - i. Phil is meeting with Eric on 10/18 at 4 pm at the cabin.
 - ii. Josie and Jane would like to know more about the cabin history and would like to be involved with the project.
 - iii. There are grants available to help cover costs to move the project forward

- iv. If we are going to have running water, ie., a sink, there will have to be a leaching field
 - b. Benches/Picnic Table
 - i. We'd like Hudson to do a project presentation for the Commission and provide us with a detailed plan of design and materials.
 - ii. Associated costs are approximately \$300 for the picnic table and \$500 for a firepit. Questions were raised about the shape of the table, who is paying for the items, what type of stone is being used for the firepit.
 - iii. Randy pointed out that the firepit needs to have a metal sleeve insert.
 - iv. Rebecca proposed we have a plaque made thanking Allison for her years of service to place on the picnic table.
- 8. Addendum
 - a. Rebecca asked all to read the park management plan for homework.
 - i. What are our priorities
 - ii. Develop an operating plan
 - iii. Focus our next meeting on fleshing out this plan
- 9. Walk Woodstock Maps
 - a. Wendy Merriman asked if we have reached out to the Faulkner Trust because the Park kiosk map is out of date and recently graffiti'd.
 - b. Becky agreed that the map needs to be updated.
 - c. Wendy queried whether the Trust would pay for the update and how would we move that forward.
 - d. Randy stated that one map inset with each individual map location would be the ideal throughout the town park system
 - e. Becky suggested that once the Walk Woodstock map is updated, we'd approach the Trust about changing the location of the kiosk to be more user friendly
 - f. Randy mentioned that perhaps we'd like to have separate signage for the entry into Billings Park
 - g. What would be the best location?
 - h. 2018 was the last WW map update.
 - i. There was discussion about the WW map being a desired reference tool for visitors and locals. Randy brought up possible markers in town to guide people to the various parks.
- 10. Addendum
 - a. Randy led a quick discussion on our need for an annual calendar in tandem with our budget. All agreed we need more structure. Historically, Sam and Allison worked on budget, so we'll all need to step up.
- 11. Mt Peg Classroom
 - a. No updates
- 12. New Business
 - a. Wendy Merriman reported that the FFP has completed their town right of way survey.
 - i. She's looking for collaborative input on solving drainage and parking issues. FFP has submitted grant proposal and developed a map of work to be completed where Faulkner Park meets Mountain Avenue.

- ii. Randy suggested that a town-based grant application would be most likely to be successful, especially if it included a plan to increase parking volume in the area, which would serve the town.
 - iii. Randy asked where the big drain by the maple tree in the park goes. No one knew.
 - b. Wendy wanted to know how we handle leash laws. Becky let her know that the police can be called, but it's not something that is regularly enforced.
 - c. Wendy also wanted to know what we wanted to do about the RV's parking overnight at Faulkner Park. Becky responded that there's no laws against it, and it's not a BPC issue.
13. Next Meeting – November 28th, 4:30 pm.
14. Meeting adjourned by Becky at ? pm (after 5:30, before 6pm).