

Park and Rec Minutes Feb. 6, 2018

Attendance:

Present: Jack Fles, Tony Laplante, Dale Staples, Rus Baer, Cindy Reiter, Jeanine

Absent: Thom Harnett, Scott Williams, Jay Semanski

Guests: Dog Park: Jessica Clark, Kris Hoffer, Chad Sirois, Jessica Greenleaf, Sterling Paul, Jen Paul, Jennie Libby.

Greenscape: Robert Abbey, Dorothy Washburn

I. Welcome

- Brief explanation of how volunteer groups and committees work with city council and Gardiner Main Street

II. Review and acceptance of minutes from Jan 22, 2018

- Correction – Gardiner Football Club
- **Motion: Accepted as amended. Motion carried.**

III. Barks in the Park – Hope to provide a Dog Park

- Handout was given. Outline for possible location. City Lot on Water St, on the Cobboosee, just below the last dam. Area needs improvements – will be done by volunteers. Earl Harvey, adjoining landowner, was enthusiastic of the idea of a dog park. Willing to work with the group to make the space accessible. Access through the other property belonged to Kruger would be needed to gain entry to space.
- Looking for city support. They have raised \$8,000.00 at this time. The group is making plans to maintain the park once it is built.

Motion: Park and Rec in full support of dog park. Jessica Clark, please bring to next park and rec meeting information on insurance, cost of fencing and how much will be needed, provide information for fence installation and general maintenance of dog park. Jack Fles motion, Tony LaPlante 2nd, motion carried.

IV. Gardiner Fire Football Club: Seeking space for playing field

- presenter: Cindy Reiter, Treasure GFFC

Property owned by the Police Union. Mayor Harnett asked Stacy Blair to ask if the property would be available to lease. Stacy said land would not be available to lease. May possibly be available for purchase.

- The group is looking for any other possible spaces that might be available. High School AD is not interested in helping with finding new fields.
- Skene field is for sale.
- City owns south gardiner gravel pit, that could possible be used to practice on.
- Gardiner Fire would like to give back to the community and would like to volunteer to help with any of PR/GS projects.
- **Tony LaPlante will bring take Park and Rec on walking tour later this spring.**
- **Jack Fles will ask Steve Magee about the property across from the High School.**

V. Greenscape projects – Robert Abbey presenter

- Three Projects to be shared with Park and Rec

1. Cobbossee Stream Trail:

GS has been removing/trimming Invasive species and weeds to open up view to stream. The trail will expand under the bridge by former Dennis property. No budget to maintain the trail. PR members invited to volunteer, bring friends. **Robert will let us know of upcoming spring work times.**

2. Splash Pad

Planning started 2-3 years ago. City of Ellsworth has a one, very successful addition for kids and families. Slip free surface. Safe and fun option for the Common or other location, but not the waterfront. Cost approximately \$100,000. Tony met with Steve and Peter Prescott, who will make matching gift of up to half the cost. Local group needed to spear head funding. **Motion made by Jack Fles, Cindy Reiter 2nd. PR endorse this project. Motion Carried. Dale Staple will bring the idea of spearheading fund raising to the Rotary Board.**

3. Community Forrest – presenter Dottie Wasburn

80 acres available for community forest. The property off Marston Road, across Rolling Damn Brook is city owned and Kennebec Land Trust.

Challenge is access to property, land locked by adjacent owners. Two option: Longish bridge across stream and swampy area or right of way via property owned by a local family.

Jim Connors and caretakers for the KLT group have had discussions to build a bridge.

Motion made by Jack, 2nd by Cindy. Dottie and Jack to continue access research. Carried.

VI. Next steps for PR:

- **Waterfront Park**

Re-decking of floating docks is long term project directed by Tony.

Jack expressed concern about boat fees and signage at the park.

This will first on agenda next meeting with information from other public landings.

VII. Conclusion

- A moment of silence was observed to reflect on our work together.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:45
- Next meeting Tuesday March 6, 5:30-6:30, Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale and Jack