

Open Space Management Committee Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2011

Present: Dena DeSena, Zach Matzkin, Dick Bauman, John Planinsek, Garvan Donegan, Marti Blair, Town Planner Maureen O'Meara

Visitor: Amy Anderson, reporter for the Forecaster

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Minutes of February 8, 2011 approved.
3. Correspondence. None.
4. Citizen comment. None.
5. Use Chart. Perhaps the chart as currently presented is confusing in that there are many small properties that are not as open to a variety of uses. We could segregate those from the larger parcels where more uses are available. We don't want to lose those completely, however. The way the whole town is divided in regions is nice, perhaps we should group the smaller parcels at the end. We could add the size of the properties to the list, then order them by size. Properties in Great Pond should be grouped together.

What is the function of the Use Chart? It works well as an inventory. It is a concern if it shows a use, like horseback riding, for example, on a small lot. There are many that are too small to be far enough away from a house to allow hunting. Some of those small ones could be added to the Preserve list, like Holan Preserve, where only Hunting, Fishing and Trapping are allowed. It would be good to add acreage to the Chart.

Abaco Park – has potential for a trail easement. The neighborhood could have events there. We need to decide whether the Yes and No apply to suitability for a use, or permission for a use. We could add a category for Potential or Future opportunities.

The big ones with the most uses are: Northeast Area – Dyer Woods and Dyer Woods Pedestrian Easements, Seaview Beach; Stonegate Area - Fort Williams, Loveitt Woods, Plaisted Park, Stonegate Trails; Interior - Columbus Park, Lions Field; Great Pond Area - Broad Cove Trails, 5 properties at Great Pond; St. Bart's Pond Pedestrian Easement, 3 Two Lights Easements; Gull Crest Area – Fowler Road Connector, Gull Crest, School Campus; Marsh Area – Cross Hill, Leighton Farms, Spurwink Marsh, Town Farm, Winnick Woods; for a total of 18 primary parcels. List all the primary together and then all the secondary together. If there was any explanation to be added, it would be easy to do if they were broken out that way. The secondary parcels could be described as of most use for the immediate neighborhood.

Dyer Woods, 5.3 acres, has a pond but it dries out in summer. There is a trail on it and Greenbelt access signs.

Seaview Beach. Add walking to the hiking use. Parking under Facilities means there is no parking on the property itself. There may be parking available on the street.

Loveitt Woods has a Yes to Trapping. But this only applies to 2 types of trapping. It would be good to add the qualifier. Every single one of these uses has to be done in accordance with our policies. Maureen will expand the explanation of the types of trapping that are allowed.

Plaisted Park includes the ballfield and a small undeveloped area. Snowmobiles should be a No.

Snowmobiles may not be appropriate use for some properties, for instance Loveitt Woods, Stonegate. Vote 4-2 to say No on snowmobiling in Stonegate Area properties.

Snowmobiling in the Northeast area. Vote 4-2 to say No on snowmobiling in the Northeast area.

Columbus Park is 1 acre, the neighbors are using it as a focus and including an ice rink. Snowmobiles will not be allowed.

Lions Field does currently have some snowmobile use.

Broad Cove Trails should be a Yes to mountain biking.

Great Pond – Rename the Palanza Connector to Great Pond-Fenway Connector. We need to add a piece to our policy saying that horses and snowmobiles are not allowed on our boardwalks and bridges. They are not engineered to support those uses. A warning will be added to the primary paragraph.

Two Lights – Rename the St. Bart's Pond to Two Lights-St. Bart's Pond. There are boardwalks in there and trails signs.

Leighton Farms – No mountain bikes and no snowmobiles by deed.

Abaco Park and Abaco Pedestrian Easement – No snowmobiles. Remove trails from Facilities.

Cranbrook Easement – No on snowshoeing because there is no public access.

Shore Road Pond – No on snowmobiling.

Tarbox Triangle – No snowmobiling.

Queen Acres/ State Ave. – No snowmobiling.

Wildwood Easement – No snowmobiling.

McKenney Point Park – No snowmobiling.

Fowler Rd. Corner Lot – No snowmobiling.

Longfellow Preserve – Change it to Longfellow Park. Add uses more appropriate to a park than a preserve.

Autumn Tides Park – No horseback riding.

Park Circle – No snowmobiling, no horseback riding.

6. Management Policies for specific parcels. Approved, looks good.

7. Revised Report Completion Schedule. Next time, March 8 – Use category (2nd) and Maintenance Policies (1st) Need to plan next Public Forum.

8. Trail walk March 5 at 8:00 a.m. Next meeting Tuesday, March 8.

9. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.