

White Pond Advisory Committee
Remote Meeting
8/26/20

Meeting called to order at 7:39

In attendance Carmen Jaquier, Beth Kelly, Cheryl Baggen

Guests included Jane Hotchkiss, Sarah Grimwood Pam Reed Kate Hodges Irwin Hipsman
Susan Andrews

Minutes of July 29 approved

Discussion of Sachem's Cove

Carmen stated that at a June 17 meeting of Dover Street Association, members of the Association drafted comments and requested that these comments be put into the Record of this WPAC meeting

WPAC moved to include comments into the record.

Discussion of Town Plan for White Pond Beach

Carmen stated her concern that an engineered plan has been created and a request for money to complete the plan has been submitted for Town Meeting, yet to date there has been no public forum for public comment on said plan.

Kate H stated that last year \$1.4 million for park improvements was approved at Town Meeting - 600k for Gerow property 400k for White Pond

Because of the delay in accepting the gift, Town used all of the money for Gerow.
Finance Committee was aware of this action

For this coming Town meeting, therefore, the \$600 K the Rec Dept is requesting for White Pond development is the same amount that was approved at the last Town meeting.

Kate H stated:

- 1) Weston and Sampson, the surveyors and architects of this plan, caused the confusion, because they assumed a NOI should be filed on a complete build out plan. Kate noted that testing still needs to be completed before consideration of the plan can go forward and then there will be staff level review and a series of public hearings.

- 2) Walkways are obligated under ADA and White Pond Associates have included certain requirements as part of the gift (a pavilion or benches).
- 3) 3 ADA spaces and one van space required and one ADA space by pier and one by portable trailer. 8 ADA spaces on discussion plan but will be reduced to 6 but still need open space for emergency turnaround at the bottom of the access road, as well as an area for loading and unloading, particularly for those with limited access.
- 4) No grills

Beth - Asked about what type of regrading will be required to make the site ADA compliant?

Kate stated that at this point there is insufficient funds for increased parking and widening of the road and pullouts, as noted on the plan. She stated that this work may take place at a later date.

Delia stated that NRC will ID each tree to be removed and what plants will be replaced. She also indicated that NRC will do an initial survey of all plants, including lady slippers.

Discussion of what is recommended by Architectural Access Board (AAB)

Switch back - access appears to be the best option as AAB board based on universal design - includes ADA and temporary mobility issues.

The only way to reduce the walkway would be a direct route would result in a loss of an additional 38 trees, as compared to the switch back indicated on the plan.

Rocks noted on the site plan exist and may be moved to act as natural barriers.

Trying to avoid handrails.

Want it to be natural looking. Packed stone dust or asphalt still under consideration.

Has to be maintained to make it ADA accessible.

Stone has to be re-raked after big rain events to make it ADA accessible.

What the steps are made of is not yet decided.

State unwilling to consider moving parking slots reserved for fishers to upper parking lot.

Parking monitors next year will insure that these parking slots are used only for fishers.

Beth asked Kate if it was possible to close the upper gate to the parking lot, while leaving the gate to fisher people's entrance open. Kate responded that it is possible, the requirement is that the gate for fisher people open. Kate also stated that however, other members of the community might like them open.

Jane Hotchkiss will include input heard in this meeting to other she meets with as selectperson.

Kate stated that the existing drainage system at the end of the boat launch is insufficient and has not been maintained. New system will vastly improve the drainage issues, according to Delia.

Trying to have a series of other stormwater initiatives so more water can be collected before it hits the bottom of the access road.

ADA phase 1 includes a stop at the bottom of the access road for handicap access and emergency vehicles.

Beth - asked about whether the lady slipper population would be protected and Kate stated that she has received information from the State regarding what is needed to protect various protected species on the site.

Kate stated that there is no intention at this time to increase in number of members of beach or add additional parking

Participant Alan ? , a Mass Registered Architect, offered 2 areas of concern.

- 1) He has never seen an "idea plan" that has gone this far and he finds that process allowing this upsetting. No neighbor was asked to participate and it got this far w/o input. Concerned about open meeting law violations.
- 2) Pavilion would reduce the value of the abutters' land.

Stated he has worked with the Architectural Access Board and that the Board is reasonable and can waive some things such as the number of handicap parking spots. In his opinion, what is shown is an urban park and inappropriate for this location. Alan stated that additional spots can be changed back to handicap spots at a later date if they are deemed necessary.

Kate stated the Town is not willing to reduce the number of handicap spaces for access to a park property. Against Rec Department position.

A participant stated that even without pavilion and picnic locations, there is always lots of litter, and questioned why the pavilion is placed on the slope close to homes. Kate stated that the location makes the pavilion accessible to visitors and easy for police to check..

Cheryl recommended that picnic tables and pavilions be put in the field.

Jane Hotchkiss - suggested that the requirements associated with the gift be made available to all interested parties.

Sachem Cove Discussion

Delia noted that the Great Pond designation allows for fishing and navigation but no swimming from the land. However, swimming has been going on for a long time. Upon purchase of Sperry Land a decision was made to not allow swimming from Town Land. Town does not own the Pond. Town does not own Stone Root land.

Regarding the need for a Ranger to patrol the area, Delia stated that Rec was able to bring back a furloughed worker and that individual is now working 40 hours a week as Ranger for town land. Flexible hours. His job is to educate visitors. NRC is in the process of purchasing new signs, but there is some existing signage. Signage will probably be replaced next year. Suggestion by Carmen that signage be placed at the top of the slope near the underpass regarding rules.

Possible use of social media regarding appropriate use of the pond was discussed.

If unable to find a ranger in following years, NRC will consider how best to insure that management of the pond is dealt with.

Jim Ricker - stated that there are 4 departments involved in the management of the Pond and asked if there was a person or organization that had overarching control. Delia said it would be good to have a coordinate approach, but this is difficult under state statute. With Rail Trail and development in Sudbury, a coordinated approach would be beneficial.

Jane H stated that she would raise the issue of how best to develop a coordinated approach to this area with the Select Board and would invite WPAC.

Meeting adjourned. 9:07