

White Pond Advisory Committee
Remote Meeting
11/19/20

Minutes 11/19

In attendance: Carmen Jaquier, Beth Kelly, Susan Folgar, Cheryl Baggen

Jeff Parker has not yet been sworn in as a Committee member,

Meeting called to order at 7:39

White Pond beach plan

Carmen announced that Cheryl and Carmen are both abutters to the project and that neither of us will benefit from the the "improvements"

December 16th is next public forum

Carmen read a notice asking that everyone treat each other with respect and stated that all participants want what is best for the project, despite differences of opinion. She stated a concern that some emails that have circulated regarding the project have been hostile

Carmen noted that she had emailed Kate Hodges asking her to address the issue of maintenance of hillside and beach year round, but had not yet heard back.

Carmen was also interested in what types of water quality testing the Town intended to do going forward. She also wanted information from Weston and Sampson as to how the new drainage system was better than the existing system.

Jeff P stated his belief that White Pond water is polluted and that the water running down the paved road is better quality than pond water. Carmen noted that the ESS report showed high phosphorus levels in the water in the area where the State road ended at the beach.

December 16th is our next meeting.

It was noted that once the Town's plan is finalized, a filing with the NRC will occur and the NRC will conduct its own review of the project.

Carmen provided information about the "Hill Hiker" as an alternative to the switchback trail proposed by the Town. She noted that the Town's Commission on Disabilities was going to consider the Town's plan with regard to access at its 12/10 meeting.

It was noted that compliance with ADA is not the same as developing a Universal Design plan.

Diane Reynolds asked that the Committee wait to hear from the Commission on Disabilities before having further discussions about the project in general and the advisability of the Hill Hiker.

Attendees asked"

For clarification as to whether the switch back ramp was for individuals with disabilities or those with strollers

If there was no pavilion near the beach front whether there would be room for additional handicap parking.

It was noted that the Hill Hiker could be used by those with strollers.

Beth noted that the Committee's previous vote was to explore options other than the switchback ramp - more handicap parking near the beach and Hill Hiker.

Jeff stated his belief that the Town intended to take out the current stairs.

Catherine stated that she had heard from Kate Hodges that the Town was intending to propose other renditions at the next meeting based on feedback from the community.

Jim R stated his desire to have minimal disruption to hillside, but allow access to the beach for everyone and suggested that a bench halfway up the hill might allow beach goers to rest.

Attendee stated their belief that the Town's project did not meet the criteria for community preservation funds.

Catherine - unrealistic as to how much land would be ruined - and the amount of wood needing to be taken down. Requested that the rendition be more realistic.

Jeff - they should mark the trees they will take out and might take out.

Catherine felt the design was flawed because it does not meet the goals of making it accessible, while ruining the environment.

Water quality

Carmen explained that based on a 2 year study ESS determined that phosphorus loading was not due to septic systems. Jeff stated that he did not agree with this finding.

Jim R. - most septic systems are new and regularly pumped.

Discussion of the fact that Susan Rask of the Health Department gave a poorly attended talk at a previous WPAC meeting to provide homeowners in the area information relating to Wahite Pond water quality and septic systems and other activities of homeowners living in the water shed.

Move to invite Susan Rask to our next meeting.

General discussion of the pavilion hearing the parking lot, the purpose of the Town's survey regarding the project and the intention of the gift to the town and whether the Town's actions are consistent with that intention, given that the gift stated that the area was to be kept in its natural state.

Jim R - going in the opposite direction of Walden if we follow plans.

Beth - suggested that a receptacle for fishing lines be installed at the beach as there are no trash receptacles during the off-season. email - set up a separate email.

Committee moved and voted to approve that a separate email be set up for discussions between interested homeowners regarding this project in an effort to reduce the number of emails Carmen received on this topic.

Discussion of a Co-chair and responsibilities that could be shared with other members of the committee.

Suggestion was made that an article be put in the Concord Journal informing people about the plan. Jane Hotchkiss - suggested that instead, a Concord Journal reporter be invited to the next public forum.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27