

Dover Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting of November 5, 2008
Minutes

P&R Commissioners In Attendance: John Budd, Barry Cullen, Peter Davies, Rich Oasis, Nancy Simms

P&R Employees In Attendance: Jessica Cooney, David MacTavish

Others In Attendance: Scott Seidman, Jim Kinder – Warrant Committee; Mike Francis, Steve Sloan – Trustees of the Reservation; Amy Moot – Open Space Commission

Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from prior meetings were unavailable for review.

Trustees Of The Reservation Update

Mike Francis provided the Commission an update on their efforts to divert TTOR traffic into Noanet Woodlands from Caryl Park to the Powisset Street entrance. Plans to develop a 23-car parking lot at that location have been delayed by objections from the neighbor directly to the west of the property. These objections center around a well, currently not in use, on his property. He is contending that the proposed parking lot is within the legally defined buffer zone intended to protect wells and the water they source. The proposed parking area is down gradient from the well, so run off concerns may be unfounded. TTOR would prefer to resolve this issue without resorting to legal tactics and anticipates that this route may require 6 to 8 months to work itself out. Legal action may accelerate the timetable but would be costly and antagonistic; it would include going before Dover's Planning Board to request a zoning bylaw variance. Because TTOR is an educational organization, local zoning bylaws often can be bypassed.

It was suggested by the Commission that TTOR move forward with the clearing and installation of roughly 5 parking spaces which could be sited outside the contended buffer zone. P&R will send a letter to TTOR documenting this suggestion, as well as reminding them of our requests over the last three years to remove: (1) their shed from the Caryl Park parking lot; (2) the TTOR Noanet Woodlands sign at the entrance to Caryl Park; and (3) their listing of Caryl Park as a Noanet Woodlands access point from their website and the next printings of all of their literature.

Amy Moot of Dover's Open Space Committee offered to reach out to TTOR to help make the above requests happen.

It was also suggested that P&R explore our legal rights in terms of limiting access to Caryl Park to Dover residents during the peak traffic months in the Spring. P&R was reminded that in addition to problems of parking, there are also health concerns associated with dog walkers who do not clean up after their pets while walking through Caryl Park to get to Noanet Woodlands. Caryl Park leash laws intended to address the Board of Health concerns on this topic are frequently ignored and have not been an effect deterrent.

Community Center Update

Jess and Nancy continue to meet with P&R directors in other towns. The Dover Community Center Building Committee (DCCBC) has requested that P&R attend their meeting on December 17, 2008 to share our ideas on current and future programs and what building space and services would be required.

It was suggested that P&R work with the local newspapers to introduce a regular column that would share with the public P&R news in order to increase the visibility of all the good things we do. Perhaps there is a group of high school students interested in journalism who would be interested in "owning" this column.

Tennis Court Update

The tennis courts have recently been painted. This was the final step in rectifying the failures associated with the initial installation. The repaired surface has a twenty year guarantee. The next repainting expense (capital budget) will be five years from this year rather than five years from the original installation date: 2013 rather than 2011.

Ongoing Computer Failures

Dave and Jess have experienced continued computer failures over the last 18 months. Connections fail several times a day, especially during inclement weather. This is particularly problematic when P&R programs need to be canceled due to bad weather; if the computer connection is down, Dave and Jess are unable to efficiently inform scheduled participants of the cancellations and must resort to time-consuming individual phone calls. Participants often don't receive the phone call notifications on a timely basis and become frustrated and critical of P&R. Telephone requests to the Board of Selectmen via Dave Ramsey for corrective service have not resulted in problem resolution.

It was suggested that Dave and Jess keep a log of computer connection failures for the next two weeks. At the end of this period, a letter will be sent to the Board of Selectmen along with the documentation of the computer connection problems.

P&R Recycling Efforts

Nancy received a phone call from Abby Howe of the Dover Recycling Committee asking that P&R be more diligent in its recycling efforts. It has been noticed that recyclable bottles and cans collected from the three barrels at Chickering and Caryl Fields are being thrown into the trash dumpsters at the dump rather than being dropped off at the appropriate recycling trailer(s). It was agreed that keeping a tally of the number of bags collected from these barrels is unnecessary. Regular reminders to recycle will be delivered verbally from Dave and Jess to the P&R employees responsible for this task.

Drink Machines at Caryl Park Tennis Courts

The two drink machines at the tennis courts have been removed for the winter. Drink selections were reviewed for next spring with an eye toward stocking non-soda options. It was suggested that additional vendors be researched to determine best drink selection offerings.

Capital Budget

P&R is scheduled to meet with the Capital Budget Committee on December 10, 2008 at 7:30am. Currently, P&R has a new 2 ½ ton dump truck scheduled for replacement in the upcoming year. It was requested that Dave bring to the next P&R meeting documentation to support the replacement request including trade-in value numbers and repair records.

Meeting adjournment time was not recorded.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Simms, P&R Secretary