

**TOWN OF DARIEN
WEED BEACH COMMITTEE OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Lorene Bora, Chair; Diane Conologue, Amy Doering, Werner Domittner, Mary Flynn, Goody Gray, Marc Ioli

STAFF: Pamela Gery, Director, Parks & Recreation
Other: Adele Conniff, RTM Parks & Recreation

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Bora called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and stated that the members as listed above were in attendance and a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes – January 12, 2016 meeting

Corrections were noted as follows:

Page 1: change ‘Equally Balance’ to Equally balanced – area to areas;

Page 2: add ‘swimming’ before raft. Change culminated to as determined from Change Goody to Gray

- ** **MS. CONOLOGUE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2016 AS AMENDED WITH CORRECTIONS NOTED.**
- ** **MR. IOLI SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED WITH SEVEN VOTES IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED AND ONE ABSTENTION (GRAY).**

Approval of Minutes – January 26, 2016 Public Information Session

Corrections were noted as follows:

Page 1: Attendance: Delete Marc Ioli.

Paragraph 2: change development to process; add ‘that’ after explained.

Page 2: Add Mr. or Ms. throughout public comments. Change Terry to Sherry Frank

Change ids to ideas, remove ‘tonight’, add ‘if’ before Noroton Bay residents; add ‘that’ after slide; replace Riggs with Biggs; add ‘study’ after traffic and input after feasibility.

Modify sentence: Ms. Gery had contacted Mr. Black, inviting him to the information session.

Page 3: replace these with this, -replace culminate with ‘in response to surveys’ Change spoke to said. Change culminated to ‘to determine public interest.’ After Sarah Partel – make it two sentences rather than one run one sentence....stated... then asked...

Short Lane has been closed as there is no access to Weed Beach from Bay. Change evaluated to as determined. Weed Beach not used this time of year. Change Show to ‘Snow Shoeing’ (others suggested to make show the first word in “Show evaluation of Town’s desires...”

It was noted to look up in sign in sheets for last name of Jane and cross reference speakers.

Paragraph 2: change development to process; add 'that' after explained.

Modify last sentence:...reviewed the survey results, as well as on-line survey...Replace doable with feasible.

- ** **MS. FLYNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2016 AS AMENDED WITH CORRECTIONS NOTED.**
- ** **MS. DOERING SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE VOTES IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED AND ONE ABSTENTION (IOLI).**

Review and Define Committee Purpose and Deliverables.

Ms. Flynn asked that the Commissioners are to realize that the purview of this Committee at this stage is to present 'concepts' in response to the interests of the public from the surveys. She noted that in contrast to what was mentioned by those that spoke at the information session, we are not doing it wrong. She explained that the first step is the concept phase and she clarified the role of the committee is to serve as an advisory group to the Board of Selectmen. She apologized for any misunderstanding or if the committees charge was misconstrued to be one that continues beyond the recommendation of concepts. She outlined that it is a multi-stage process where the Committee makes a recommendation to the Commission, then votes to forward it on to the Board of Selectmen. If it is decided to move forward, it goes on to a Building Committee then to Land Use Boards where there would be Feasibility Studies – Architectural Drawings then on to Board of Finance – then on to RTM.- then to referendum to the Town.

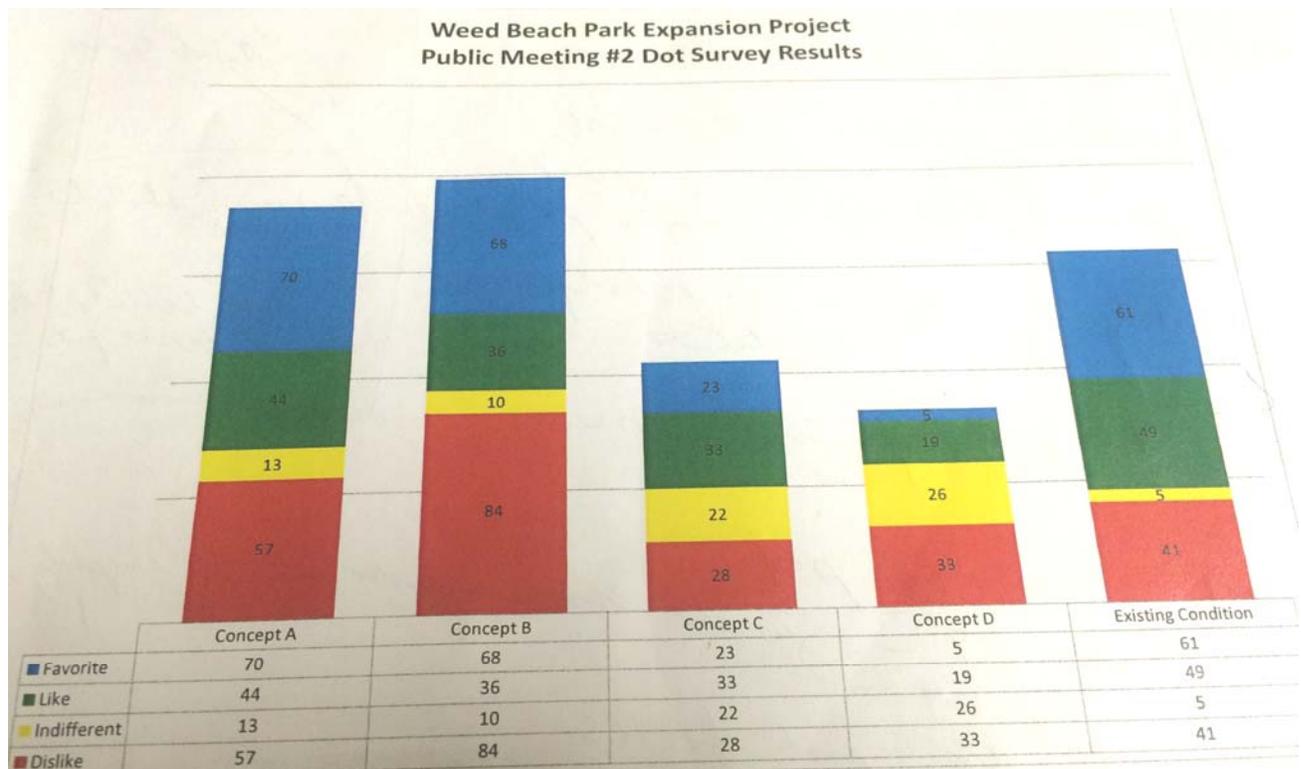
There was a discussion on how the Committee acts to facilitate and apply an educated judgment to the process. Ms. Flynn suggested that committee members could ask to be on the Building Committee to remain further involved in the next stages of the process.

Ms. Flynn referred to a 1996 Darien Dedicated Park Plan and read excerpts from the plan. It was noted that this Committee should stay focused on the purview and to refrain from Title 9 and Board of Education issues, and flood zone limitations.

Receive and review results of public feedback resulting from January 26 open house including "Dot Survey", written comments, letters received and statements during the open house.

Summarize conclusions.

A summary of the Dot Survey results to concepts is as follows:



Discussion of various conceptual designs presented by Weston & Sampson.
Prioritize, eliminate or recommend revision to presented designs.

There was round-table discussion and exchange of comments and opinions on the purview of the Committee on how to best approach the recommendation of concepts. It was noted that there is a great deal of support for the project despite the sentiment conveyed by those that spoke at the information session.

There was discussion on having a year-round pool and it was noted that the consensus of the Committee is not to recommend having a year-round pool.

There was discussion on a seasonal pool and pros/cons and synergies for complimentary programs of having a pool at the beach during the summer season. There was discussion on the community feedback for having a pool located elsewhere in the Town. It was agreed that this is not the purview of the committee and the discussion should remain centered on survey results for improvements to Weed Beach.

There was discussion on pool membership charges to make it sustainable and operational. It was suggested to make this part of the feasibility study or as a condition to be evaluated and included under the recommendations.

It was the consensus of the Committee to do further independent review and to bring feedback and comments to the next meeting for continued deliberation and discussion.

Review next steps:
Including additional information/studies and funding needed to determine
How to proceed with preferred design option.

There was round-table discussion and exchange of comments on how to best approach the next steps of information/studies and evaluation of concepts. It was the consensus of the Committee to do further independent review and to bring feedback and comments to the next meeting for further deliberation.

Review and Revise Project Timeline

There was discussion on the need to have another meeting to discuss and review concepts prior to making a recommendation on a selection of preferred concept.

Public Comments:

Adele Conniff, RTM Parks & Recreation spoke during the discussion and shared comments from the Commission of the RTM as follows:

There was interest in exploring the concept of a seasonal pool at the beach if no other location is available. Strong consideration should be placed on flooding, elevation, clean up, operations, and review of other towns such as Greenwich and New Canaan with security issues. There were likes for open space, community use, trails, picnic areas and elements of the concepts. It was noted that the plans were looked at and attention was given to the concepts.

Next Meeting(s):

March 1 – Weed Beach Comm. Mtg. Room 119
March 8 - Weed Beach Comm. Mtg. Room 119 (Select Preferred Concept)
March 16 – P&R Commission Mtg. @ 7:30 (Present Preferred Concept)
March 21 – Board of Selectmen - Special Meeting (Present Preferred Concept)

Adjournment

** **MR. DOMITTNER MOVED TO ADJOURN**
** **MR. IOLI SECONDED THE MOTION.**
** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
M. Knox Telesco Secretarial Services