

RTM  
PARKS and RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
10/7/2013

Present: Conniff, Conologue, Fead, Finn, Matton, Millar, Peters, Russell, Van Loan  
Absent: Cherico, Haas  
Guests: Sarah Seelye, Jayme Stevenson

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:37p.m. Mrs. Russell asked that the committee change the order of items on the agenda, placing the Chairman's report first. This request was approved by the committee.

ITEM #1 Chairman's Report

Mrs. Russell stated that a piece of property on Short Lane, specified for acquisition by both the Darien Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and the Darien Town Plan of Development is currently for sale, The property (.53 acres) is adjacent to the Sewer Transfer Station, encircled by town properties and would give flexibility to Weed Beach Park.

Mrs. Stevenson stated that the Board of Selectmen was in negotiations with the homeowner and the BOS would be voting this evening on whether to send this item to the P&Z Commission for a Mandatory Referral. She seeks recommendation from the P&R Committee to acquire the property for park use.

Mrs. Seelye expressed her desire that RTM committees stay informed throughout the process. This could come to the RTM on October 28.

Mrs. Russell informed the Committee that it could make recommendations for the use of the property but that the P&R Commission has the final say. She feels that the property, if purchased, should be under park and recreation jurisdiction.

After further discussion, a motion was put forward by Matton and seconded by Conniff.

MOTION #1:

The Parks and Recreation Committee recommends the town acquire the 4 Short Lane property to be incorporated into the Weed Beach Park.

With a quorum of 9 Of 11 members present, the committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

ITEM #2 Minutes

The minutes of May 6, 2013 were approved.

ITEM #3 Weed Beach Trails

Bill Peters expressed interest in a study of non- paved walking trails at Weed Beach. These had been removed from the plan due to cost. Ms. Swiatek suggested P&R might like to study the issue. Mrs. Russell asked for volunteers for a subcommittee and stated that she would work with Ms. Swiatek on a budget.

8:47p.m. The committee adjourned to attend the BOS meeting where Mrs. Russell reported on tonight's motion and vote.

8:55p.m. The committee reconvened.

Discussion continued as to groups that might help with paths. (Tree Conservancy - Debbie Parnon, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts)

The subcommittee will send agendas and minutes to the full committee. Matton and Van Loan volunteered to assist Peters.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane G. Conologue  
Acting Clerk