

DRAFT Minutes
Waterbury Recreation Committee Meeting 4/14/2021
Via online connection on Zoom

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The zoom platform will be opened prior to let folks in and settle into the technology, but **business will begin no earlier than 6:30**. Attendees who log in will be queued in the “waiting room” and will be admitted by the meeting administrator.

In accordance with Town practices for public meetings on the Zoom platform the business portion of the meeting will be recorded. The Chair will announce the beginning and end of recording.

Join Zoom Meeting

In order to reduce the incidents of meeting disruptions the link to the meeting will not be posted. The link will be forwarded to the committee members listed below. To receive the link to the meeting email the chair or any member of the committee for a link to the meeting, otherwise dial in.

Meeting ID: 989 8073 6951

Passcode: 693155

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The administrator for the call will be the chair.

Please mute if you are not speaking. (The administrator may mute those who forget)

Please raise hand to speak.

If you are speaking and have the capacity for video please turn video on when you speak or identify yourself by name prior to making your comments.

Roll Call:

Committee Members:

Present: Frank Spaulding, Paul Lawson, Phoebe Pelkey, Bill Minter, Barb Blauvelt

Absent:

Town Employees – Officers:

Present: Nick Nadeau, Recreation Director

Guests: Meg Baldor, Tom Scribner, Jana/Matt Moore, Eric Lustgarten, Jane Brown, Serena Lamson, Marc Coviello, William Vigdor

1. Review Agenda – Frank summarized the reasoning behind the change in format.
2. Adopt Meeting Agenda:
 - a. Motion to adopt: Phoebe Pelkey
 - b. b. Second: Paul Lawson
 - c. c. Discussion: None
 - d. d. Vote: Passed
3. 3. Adopt Meeting Minutes of 3/10/2021:
 - a. a. Motion to adopt: Bill Minter
 - b. b. Second: Phoebe Pelkey
 - c. c. Discussion: none
 - d. d. Vote: Passed
4. Public Comments – Because the Committee plans to work on final document edits. We will for this meeting be limiting public comments to 3 minutes per public attendee for this meeting. The public is welcome to bring issue to the committee or provide comments on the proposed agenda.
 - a. Tom Scribner commented on the beneficial meetings taking place in the community with he parties. We have gained a lot of knowledge, and would like that to continue.
 - b. Jane Brown has forwarded results from those meetings discussed later.
 - c. Marc Coviello – (later comment) had a question about league play
5. Recreation Director –
 - a. Advice and recommendation to Director on pending permit
 - i. Disc Golf League has applied for an ongoing league permit, while the activity does not take exclusive use of course it does run 12 weeks.
 - ii. Standard fee for Adult league play is \$800
 - b. Questions and comments from the committee
 - c. Committee approved a concurrence for Nick to charge an \$800 league fee
 - d. 1 reservation noted by Bill Minter to encourage Nick to pursue other fee options with the league organizer under his authority if this seems unbalanced.

6. Disc Golf- The committee will deliberate the final wording of recommendations to the Town Manager, Recreation Director and/or Selectboard.
 - a. For this portion of the meeting the chair may request input from public members who have assisted in collecting technical information.
 - i. Jane Brown reviewed the work product of the ad hoc committee work.
 - ii. Group has met twice and the results of those discussions are appended to the minutes and reflects the content of Jane's discussion.

The Committee moved to proposals.

Phoebe Pelkey – this is exactly what the Rec committee should do

Recommends

Can Nick put the weight of the Town behind Marc Stirwalt's request for trail counter.

Portable toilets are being added.

Wetland-Can Allan Thompson be involved with the wetland? Tom Scribner will forward information as soon as he hears. Town should be involved with the mapping.

Committee recommends a new course map be completed.

Dogs off leash is an existing town rule however is a continuing problem.

Quiet times proposal – The committee recommends that the small group discuss the options for develop temporary quiet times in an attempt to find consensus on the best option.

Nick says if agreement can be found that would be something that he could post and block out on the calendar and would be supportive of such a move.

After hours work – The committee reiterates that work should not occur after dark as the park is closed.

Cutting vegetation – The committee reiterates that no vegetation is to be cut without prior approval of the town.

The committee recommends temporary signage to start putting these changes out there once adopted.

Recommends supporting the sub-committee on continued negotiations with establishing set mowing areas as well as other areas of consensus.

The hope is that the work and process we develop with this property will translate to other properties.

Motion to adjourn: Paul Lawson
Second: Barb Blauvelt
Discussion: Thank You to Barb Blauvelt for her service
Vote: Passed Adjournment 8:15PM

Comments from Jane Brown Community group work

This is an edited and a more complete list. List of topics at two recent Hope Davey Park / Disc Golf course meetings based on discussion at recent Rec Committee meetings Since October 2020.

Meeting / Monday 4/6 meeting at 6 PM at Picnic Shelter w/ Mark S. Tom S and Meg B and _____ on Monday, 4/12 when we were also joined by Serena Lamson a golfer and Julia Whitaker, a neighbor on Maple St. and Mark C. a neighbor at the Knolls.

PORT a POTTY - Public bathroom - Need a bathroom facility / port a potty in a public area like near the sign of picnic shelter. These were in place near the Picnic Shelter but were removed during Covid . There was agreement on this

Restore Vegetation - Protect and restore vegetative buffers by reducing mowing along wetland areas and along Thatcher Brook .Stop expanding play areas with mowing. - Reduce mowing so vegetation will grow back. There was agreement to let areas grow up and mow less in general.

Wetland delineation - We have heard that the State of VT / ANR will be doing wetland mapping in 2021. Can the town coordinate to get this information and let them know that the limits and types of wetlands should be identified. Maybe they can guide us.

PUBLIC DRINKING and TRASH CONTAINERS in the woods. Public drinking is not allowed. Large trash cans are full of empty's. Remove Trash cans as it encourages congregating and drinking in groups. Locate to sign and pavilion area. Big trash can in woods supports public drinking. There was some agreement on this issue

Locker in the woods - Relocate to a new "kiosk" area - Recommend relocating this out of the woods to a new kiosk with a few new items such as a bench/ new signs and Map/ kiosk with schedule of league play/ Park hours...follow the attractive model at the Quarries in Barre. This could be located near the Picnic Shelter. There was agreement on this

Benches in the woods - These informal gathering spots also add to the culture of hanging out and drinking in the woods. One has had a trash barrel next to it to collect empty bottles.

Recommend benches near the footbridge or at a new kiosk there not in the woods. There was discussion and some agreement on this

Man-Made Structures in Woods: Eliminate man-made /benches. Mark S blamed all of this on Taylor Douglass and agreed it could all go.

Shared Use / Multi Use paths -- Walkers can't walk through in the pre -existing trail - Restore walking trails Restore multi use. This was not resolved--just discussed. Mark S, agreed that a new overall plan for the park would address this. Boardwalks

T PADS - There are a lot of T pads Some have 2 or 3 per hole for different level of players. This adds to making it difficult to walk through. - Eliminate some T pad areas since there are 3 per hole. This was not resolved--just discussed.

Natural materials for T- pads Can permeable, natural pea stone be used for T pads instead of synthetic materials ? Maybe for some but they won't work in sloped areas, would need a wooden frame so they don't erode. How about stay-mat? Look at examples at other dg courses....This was not resolved

Maintenance schedule and Park Use only in daylight hours - Eliminate maintenance in the dark with headlamps etc. PROPOSE 8am – 5 pm weekdays. OTHERWISE, VERY DISRUPTIVE. There was some agreement on this. Volunteers work after day time work hours.

Noisy chain baskets- Chain baskets make noise and this disturbs neighbors and bird like with so many users. 'Bang the Chains' makes a lot of noise. Can there be a change which would be fine for recreational play to add "silencers" ? This is not popular with the professional d.g. course users who explained that the entrance of the disc to the basket may be impacted. The same golfer at the meeting uses a silencer at home to practice so as not to disturb family because it could be up to 300 baskets. This is a real issue for nearby residents who will be listening to the clanging of 300 baskets during a busy time. This was not resolved just discussed.

Capacity of the park is maxed out. The course is very popular with out of towners as well as residents both because it is free and it is in a natural setting. This over-use 24/7 is not allowing shared use and is damaging the natural resources. We heard that this course was one of the heaviest use in the state last year or had the largest use on udisc (sorry I don't know the term for how this was measured) We heard that the sport is growing. Trapps disc golf course charges \$10 per day,

Could we add a pass for locals? One attendee suggested to limit or charge for parking. Consider reducing volume of players or imposing fees? Locating the entire park in another part of town? near the ice rink? Reducing the size of the course

was not well received. We learned that there are no 9-holed golf courses. This was not resolved.

We should actively look at other regional courses and see what we can learn and apply to this course for fees/ use etc. Also the course layout needs examination as it relates to the impacts on terrain and neighbors and balanced use.

Establish daily hours for other users, Limit hours of play? The easiest for starters would be a quiet time in the morning say from 7 AM to 10 AM with no Disc Golf play. How about a few evening hours midweek as well? Only daylight hours should be allowed for all users. It is hard to limit disc golf use at the end of the workday. When the course was closed for mud season it was very popular with walkers recently. This was discussed but was not resolved.

Unleashed Dogs and Neighbors and other stuff - Noise and profanity and just the normal excited voices of players are distracting and even annoying. Hole 13 is next to private property. Behavior of players needs to be improved, Can the course be redesigned for more space between private property and the golfers? Can people keep their dogs on leashes? - Discussion but no resolution

Tree Trimming - No one knew who was responsible for removing branches - We were told that the philosophy of the course is to play with the hazards and natural obstacles

Removing obstacles to walking such as wood pallets - They are in the way of the walking path. They are being removed - There was agreement on this. Also remove wood that is stacked around in the wooded area?

Schedules: Discussed posting league schedules at a kiosk and on the Town rec page. No agreement was reached. A disc golfer stated that it isn't possible to post the schedule. There are many scheduled leagues and pick-up leagues by different groups. Disc golfer said 'main league' is the flex league by Disc Golf Vermont/12 weeks/play when you can. It was stated 'about 12 people' would be playing. Last year there was a list of about 100 people who might play. This was not resolved. It seems to be a difficult issue to resolve.

MAP THE COURSE AND THE WALKING PATH: This was not discussed at our two meetings It was promised months ago. Integrating a map of the walking path is needed. The map could be located at the course entrance or at a new kiosk location