

WATERBURY PARKS STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE

Unapproved Minutes

Thursday, June 1, 2023

Waterbury Parks Steering Committee Members (or Substitutes)

Alyssa Johnson – Waterbury Selectboard; Tami Bass - Skate Park Coalition; David Frothingham – Center Chains Disc Golf; Steve Lotspeich – Waterbury Planning Department; Alex Thomsen – Capital Soccer
Dan Potter – Public At Large; Phoebe Pelkey – Waterbury Recreation Committee

Public:

Tom Scribner, Roger Clapp, Tom Leitz, Lefty Sayah, Monica Callan, Laura Parette, Anne Imhoff, Belle McDougall, Meg Baldor, Jane Brown

CALL TO ORDER

Steve Lotspeich opened the meeting at 6:38 p.m. at the Steele Community Room, 28 N. Main St. and via Zoom.

AGENDA REVIEW AND MODIFICATIONS

There were no modifications to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Lotspeich opened the floor for public comments and announcements.

Several folks commented that they would like to see the creative community and arts sector promoted as part of these projects. Tom Scribner thanked Tom Leitz for his work towards the accessible path to Hope Davey Pavilion. A couple other folks thanked the SE Group for their work pulling together a great plan.

DISCUSS AND COMMENT ON DRAFT PARKS STUDY MASTER PLAN

The following comments were made regarding the draft plan.

- If we establish a new parking area for the Perry Hill bike trails, we should plan for a fence or some other deterrent for parking where people currently park in the field.
- \$7,500 seems like a lot for striping on River Rd. Can we do this little by little as funding allows?
- How will the actions identified be prioritized and implemented? How will the stakeholders be involved moving forward?
- We need motivated people to take ownership and continue to move the plan forward.
- The plan should facilitate progress not be the albatross that hinders progress.
- Need to make clear that private funding will be part of the budget.
- Need to figure out how to integrate recommendations from Recreation Committee into the recommendations of this study.
- The disc golf course has impacts to the wetland areas. Conflict in the disc golf area.

- Note in need section of Hope Davey Park that optimizing basketball court and separating skatepark and basketball is a priority.
- It was noted that the plan calls for discussion with professional disc golf course designer.
- Case by case addressing of issues is what got us to this ad hoc point in time.
- 18 holes doesn't fit into the park. Was a 9 hole course considered? The park is very narrow, and there are very crowded holes.
- Survey data shows need to return nature to park.
- Disc golf community really wants an 18-hole course. Current plan is for an 18-hole course with adjustments to avoid floodplain, wetlands, etc.
- Standards for disc golf course design state that walking paths should not be located near baskets nor should tee areas be placed near baskets.
- There is not enough space for 18 holes.
- Could a professional level course be located in a different area with a 9-hole progression course at Hope Davey?
- Consider road striping or speed bumps on Maple St/Loomis Hill Rd.
- Survey data shows people asking for park hours, certain days, certain activities, park fees, etc.
- Would like to see depersonalization of the disc golf course & town should own the course and rebrand it.
- Could we hire or consult with a professional during the design phase of this project to incorporate pieces of art?
- Could a kiosk be located near the bridge with a redesigned map of natural area of Hope Davey Park?
- The comment period will be open for another week.
- What is the process for naming the ice center area?

DISCUSS NEXT MEETING TO PRESENT TO THE SELECTBOARD

The tentative plan is for presentation to the Selectboard on 7/17/2023. Steve will work with SE Group to see if this is a feasible timeline.

OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING REVIEW AND APPROVE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR 3/2/2023

Alex Thomson moved to approve the 3/2/2023 draft meeting minutes. Phoebe Pelkey seconded. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Steve Lotspeich adjourned the meeting at 8:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Potter, Secretary