

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2012
6:00 PM
ACTON TOWN HALL - 472 MAIN STREET - ROOM 126**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Terry Maitland, Andrew Magee, Fran Portante, Jim Colman, Amy Green

CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATOR & RECORDING SECRETARY: Tom Tidman

VISITORS: Cathy Fochtman

Working Meeting – Update Open Space & Recreation Plan

The Commission discussed Section 7 focusing on Recreation and Section 7(B) Community Needs.

Mr. Magee will provide a brief composition on deer nuisance issues.

Ms. Green will provide additional information to the corridors section.

7(B) Recreation Opportunities:

Ms. Fochtman discussed existing playground conditions, and improvements to Acton's athletic fields.

- The Town needs to optimize the use of the fields it has, there are not many opportunities to create new fields. Ms. Fochtman briefly discussed the "lower field project" at the high school adjacent to the skate park and its impact on the skate park.
- Accessibility at existing playgrounds and athletic fields.
- Sidewalks linking neighborhoods to recreation facilities

7(B)(6)

Mr. Tidman will enhance this section noting that the Recreation Commission and staff need to stay in touch with rail trail friends groups, specifically identifying potential parking lot locations in North Acton.

The Commission discussed current state of School Street fields:

- Need to address water needs for irrigation; a well cannot be installed on the School Street field due to the potential of influencing the contamination plume flow direction from W.R. Grace.

The Commission discussed with Ms. Fochtman the status of the Concord Road lease agreement with the Cemetery Commission.

Mr. Tidman stated that he feels that the lease could be extended for a few more years.

Ms. Fochtman noted that Section 7(B)(2) Playgrounds only focuses on replacing the existing playgrounds not providing additional facilities. She plans to meet with Recreation staff to add to this section

Ms. Fochtman also mentioned the possibility of a deck-hockey-rink at the Elm Street field to replace the playground that has been removed. Recreation staff is studying other possible locations for a deck-hockey-rink(s) as well.

The Commission discussed the need for recreation areas that are less structured (i.e. and area to play Frisbee), possibly areas to compliment the concept of 'pocket-parks'.

7(B)(6)

Ms. Fochtman noted that she feels that the Conservation Commission would write the section regarding hiking and horseback riding.

7(B)(9)

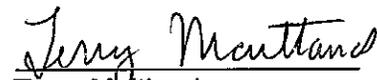
The Commission discussed the possibility of pocket-parks in West Acton associated with the West Acton Village Environmental (WAVE) Project and will discuss reviewing in greater detail at a future date, Recreation has also considered a pocket-park at Great Hill.

Ms. Fochtman will meet with Ms. Portante and Mr. Tidman next Tuesday to further develop Section 7.

Ms. Fochtman plans to meet with Recreation staff on February 24th to complete Recreation's contribution to Section 7. This information will be forwarded to Ms. Portante in time for the February 29th Open Space meeting.

Next meeting February 22, 2012.

7:10 Meeting adjourned.


Terry Maitland,
Chair

TT:ahr
ahr.concom.minutes.2012.02-08-2012

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