

Puffer's Pond 2020 Committee
MINUTES
Thursday, September 24, 2009
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall
7:00 p.m

Members Present: E. Hamin (Chair), A. Hayden, E. Shopper, M. Gage, J. Pistrang, J. Patulak, B. Angus, E. Jones, P. Muska, etc.

Staff: D. Ziomek, D. McKinnon, N. Malloy

Absent: D. Webber

Meeting convened at 7:02 p.m.

1. DCR Recreational Trails Grant Application

D. Ziomek and N. Malloy presented a draft grant application that the Town intends to submit to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for various improvement projects at Puffer's Pond and in the Mill River Conservation Area. Staff requested that the Committee vote to issue a letter of support for the grant application. E. Hamin read a copy of the letter. The Committee voted to issue the letter of support (I didn't get who made the motion, and who seconded). B. Angus and E. Shopper abstained.

2. Committee Administrative Business

The Committee had a discussion regarding the recording of meeting minutes. The task of taking minutes will rotate amongst Committee members at each meeting. Draft minutes will be emailed to staff who will then finalize and redistribute for review at the following meeting. The following details must be recorded: meeting date, location, attendees, motions, and votes.

E. Hamin reminded Committee members that they needed to be signed in at the Town Clerk. All members except B. Angus and E. Shopper have been signed in to date.

The Committee discussed upcoming meeting dates. The following dates were set:

- October 15 ,2009 (note meeting will be held in the Glass Room at Bangs Center)
- November 12, 2009
- December 10, 2009
- January 7, 2010
- February 4, 2010
- March 4, 2010

- April 1, 2010

3. Public Information Meeting

The Committee discussed plans for the public information meeting to be held in October. October 24th was suggested as a date for a Saturday meeting. Thursday, October 29th was suggested as a date for a weeknight meeting. The pros and cons of a weekend vs. a weeknight meeting were discussed. All Committee members are available for at least one of the two suggested dates. The North Congregational Church was suggested as a meeting location.

The following are some suggestions that arose during the discussion about the public information meeting:

- Set up the meeting as a drop-in, open house
- Start the meeting with a presentation with the same information presented by D. Ziomek at the first Puffer's Pond Committee meeting
- Use powerpoint or other visual aids
- Do a short presentation followed by break out groups. The pros and cons of break out groups vs. one large public forum where all attendees could hear all input were discussed.
- Public comments and input need to be recorded.
- The goal of the meeting is to solicit public input. The Committee should be careful about showing bias about problems, solutions, or recommendations for improvement.
- The goal of the first meeting will be to identify problems; the goal of the second public meeting in the spring will be to identify solutions.
- The meeting should be widely publicized. The publicity could promote the theme of "What's right and wrong with Puffers Pond?"
- The meeting should be advertised to the Friends of Puffers Pond

A sub-committee was formed to finalize plans for the public meeting. The sub-committee members are: E. Hamin, M. Gage, P. Muska, and E. Shopper. N. Malloy will look into reserving meeting space and meeting publicity.

4. Visions of Puffer's Pond

At the last Committee meeting, members were requested to think about what they would like to see at Puffer's Pond in the year 2020, in response to J. Pistrang's question about what would happen at the Pond the status quo in terms of use, management, maintenance, funding, etc. remained the same. B. Angus and E. Hamin kept notes of the discussion and agreed to organize discussion points into themes for the next meeting. This document is not included as part of the minutes, but will become part of the Committee's record once finalized.

5. Next Meeting

The Committee requested that staff come prepared to present information on the following issues at the next meeting:

- Water quality
- Legal or other implications of charging an entrance or a parking fee at the Pond
- Staff impressions of what would happen if current maintenance/management trends continue
- How other communities generate revenue at ponds or lakes
- How do other communities charge for other types of recreational areas, i.e. what are the other uses in the vicinity of the Pond, such as cross-country skiing
- Summary of questionnaire results to date

The Committee discussed possible agenda items for the next meeting:

- Staff Report
- Finalize details for public meeting
- Formation of other sub-committees

Submitted by B. Angus.