

Puffer's Pond 2020 Committee
MINUTES
Wednesday, December 16, 2009
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mary Sharma, Aaron Hayden, Meg Gage, Elisabeth Hamin, Paris Muska, Emlen Jones, Jim Patulek, Briony Angus

Staff: D. Ziomek

Public: Robert Ryan, Peter Kumble – UMASS LARP

1. Minutes

The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the November 12, 2009 meeting. A. Hayden moved to accept the minutes; E. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. UMASS Landscape Architecture Studio Proposal

Robert Ryan and Peter Kumble from UMass' Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning (LARP) program presented a proposal for a Landscape Architecture Studio class to study the pond and its greenway connections. The seven-week Studio would run from January to March, 2010 and would involve approximately 26 students.

Mr. Ryan and Mr. Kumble presented the work of other Greenway Studio classes from Orange, Southfield, and Pittsfield, MA.

The students would evaluate natural resources, historic/cultural resources, recreation, protection status, access, and other factors. The goal is to work initially at a larger scale and then focus on critical issues. The students are required to use GIS in the class.

The following issues related to the Studio were discussed:

- How will the Committee interact with the students
- What is the physical (geographic) scope of the Studio, as compared to that of the Committee
- How would student presentations/public meetings be coordinated with Committee public meetings
- The Committee is already quite advanced in terms of analysis and development of recommendations. How will the work of the students be coordinated with the Committee's work?

The Committee agreed that the LARP student recommendations would inform Committee recommendations, but that the Committee will make the final recommendations for the Pond.

On March 5, 2010 the students will present their work to the LARP faculty and program.

The following dates were proposed as possible dates for a site visit with the student groups: January 22 from 9 am to 12 pm or Monday, January 25 from 9 am to 12 pm.

Coordination regarding the Studio public meeting(s) will be discussed at the February meeting of the Puffers Pond Committee.

R. Ryan and P. Kumble will coordinate with D. Ziomek to get preliminary materials from the Town.

A. Hayden moved to accept the proposal for a LARP Greenway Studio class to focus on Puffers Pond. J. Patulek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Next Meetings

The Committee confirmed the following meeting dates:

- January 7, 2010
- February 4, 2010
- March 4, 2010 – LARP Studio students to attend
- March 11, 2010
- April 1, 2010
- May 6, 2010

4. Subcommittee Reports

The reports of the four subcommittees were presented: E. Jones – Beaches, P. Muska – Trails, B. Angus – Water Quality, A. Hayden – Asphalt. Please refer to the subcommittee reports attached to these minutes. A new subcommittee comprised of A. Hayden, M. Sharma, P. Muska, and E. Jones agreed to advance the efforts of the four established subcommittees. This new subcommittee will consolidate the recommendations from the four reports; identify those recommendations or findings that are contingent on one another, which findings/recommendations are connected – clustered decisions.

The Committee identified important issues that had not been addressed and assigned these issues back to the subcommittees as follows:

- Water safety, buoys – Beaches Subcommittee
- Cliffs – Trails Subcommittee
- Hydro – Water Quality Subcommittee

5. Questions for Town Counsel

The Committee reviewed a draft list of questions for Town Counsel prepared by D. Ziomek. Dave will submit this list and request a response in advance of the January meeting. The Committee discussed possibly inviting Town Counsel to attend the February meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by B. Angus.