

Kennedy Park Committee Meeting April 13, 2017 8:30 am Town Hall Lenox

All present: Bob Coakley, Ray Kirby, Tom Roche, Joe Nolan, Ruth Wheeler, Andy Breslin, Luke Martin and Sue McNinch
Also present: Town manager Chris Ketchen, Town Planner Gwen Miller

Call to order at 8:30 am

Minutes of Nov 17, 2016 accepted

Treasurer's Report: interest account: \$185.82 donation account:\$ 5882.41 and overlook \$8400.00

Trail Maintenance Report: Kiosk at Woolsey x Cold Spring trail was demolished by a tree late 2016. Luke will help rebuild. RW reported that the big sign that was on it was also ruined. A motion was made and accepted to order new signs for the kiosk. Its still very wet in the Park but it appears trails survived the spring runoff in good condition. The Wilderness trail has been temporarily closed.

Dog Park Report by Ken Fowler: ConCon said that the fragile ecosystem at the West Dugway location makes it unsuitable for a dog park. They suggested looking into the field across the street. After discussion RW made a motion to allow a dog park in the field. Voted down unanimously.

Berkshire Natural Resources Council Overview of the Parsons Marsh boardwalk by Mackenzie Greer. BNRC is in the process of conserving the Under Mt Valley and providing access to Parsons Marsh with connections to Kennedy Park perhaps via the Lenox Club property. A 32 acre parcel that was donated has been selected to create a 1600 foot trail/boardwalk. This is a CPC approved project and will go to vote at Town Meeting in May.

Ash Tree Problem Report by Tom Ryan from the DCR: The ash borer beetle is present in the Park and the Town has a couple of options. The first is to simply leave the trees alone and allow them to die in the projected 5 to 10 year period. Tom explained that most of the ash trees are already nearing the end of their life expectancy but the beetle has hastened their demise by many years. The state has a service forestry program that is available to the Town for technical assistance. The second option is to harvest the timber before the trees die and receive money from it. No action was taken.

Proposed Tree Cutting at Overlook/Belvedere: The con con denied the notice of intent to remove 13 trees obstructing the vista at the overlook citing the Scenic Mt Act regulations. Since we do not have a written determination from them Chris will notify us of the reasons they would not allow the tree cutting. Over the past few years the number one request about the Park was to keep that vista open. We would like to pursue this matter further and see if they would allow fewer trees not on the slope to be cut but leave the stumps and brush on the ground.

Update on Baker's Pond work: Chris said that the order of conditions have been met but the con con has to certify this. An unresolved issue is the "low head pressure". The design and money are ready to build a gazebo on the old foundation there but still needs permission.

Old Business: RW reported that Bruce Wheeler has made 3 new map boxes which will be installed this summer. Jan Chague is working on a book and maps of the history of Kennedy Park. When this is done we will be able to place a few more historical signs at various places in the Park.

New Business: None

Next Meeting: Thursday Oct 12 2017 at 8:30 unless a summer meeting is needed.

Ruth Wheeler Secretary