

Notes from the January 20, 2009, Parks, Trails & Open Space Committee meeting.

The meeting was convened at 7 pm with members Gary, John, Jen and Neil present. Supervisor Pieper and three residents were also attending.

A. Town Park

Greg Ingraham and Anna Claussen of the Hoisington Koegler Group assisted the Committee in analyzing and illustrating the park potential of the alternate sites.

Greg led the Committee in an exercise to determine and confirm what activities should be available at a Town Park.

The Committee directed Greg and Anne to illustrate potential development on two levels. The first would be a low investment, low improvement development that would include a nature based but open trail loop that would avoid isolation and be both interesting and inviting to use; a picnic shelter; a playground; an informal low maintenance play field, and a circulation and parking plan that would serve these activities while anticipating accommodating more intense activities in the future.

The second level would illustrate how spaces for more intense uses that would require more investment and staffing by the Town could be provided on the site. These uses include improved standard ball fields with spectator seating; an ice sheet and hockey rink; perhaps permanent park shelter or a Town Hall building and parking to support these activities.

The Committee, with Greg and Anne's comments, reviewed the four alternate potential Town Park sites they have identified and selected sites B, a 70 acre parcel extending between Zumbro and Marystown Rd at the Town's northerly boundary and C, a 50 acre site on 160th St. midway between Marystown Rd and Baseline Rd for illustration of how the desired activities would be located on each site. They also asked Greg and Anne to determine if less than the entire 70 acres of alternate B could serve adequately as a Town Park and to define the portion of the site that may not be needed for the Town Park use.

Illustrations of the potential development of the two alternate sites will be available for review and comment at the Trails Open House on February 12.

B. Trails Open House

The Committee will structure the Open House with two presentations at 7:30 and 9:30 pm. Neil will give the presentation he provided to the Town Board on December 4. Before and after the presentations the Committee will informally meet with visitors to respond to questions and receive their comments. Large scale trail maps and other materials from the Implementation Plan will be posted on the walls of the room to inform the discussion. A question and answer handout on the Trails Plan and copies of the Implementation Plan will be available at the Open House.

Members will keep a record of the questions and comments they receive and a comment form will be available. These will be compiled and shared with the other Committee Members and Supervisors.

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C. Revised Trail Implementation Plan and Q & A

Mike distributed a draft of the Trail Implementation Plan with two new pages discussing the potential affect of funding the Trails using the Town's Landfill Mitigation and Compensation Fund. The Committee was asked for comments later this week so copies for distribution can be printed and available when the flyer is mailed.

The Committee discussed the responses on the Q & A and added additional questions for response. The revised Q & A will be distributed to the Committee later in the week for their comment and approval. Copies of the expanded Q & A and the revised Plan will be provided to the Supervisors by Committee members as soon as they are available.

The next meeting was set for Monday, March 2 at 7 pm at the County Government Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.