

Notes from the November 10, 2008, Parks Trails and Open Space Committee

The meeting was convened at 7 P.M. Committee members Mayer and Phal were absent. Residents observing the meeting were in attendance.

A. Comprehensive Trails Plan

The topic of the meeting was developing a recommendation for implementing the trails proposed in the comprehensive plan on a phased, sequenced or staged basis. The phasing plans and priorities submitted by the members before the meeting were discussed. The Committee considered for each segment or link:

- The overall contribution to safer roadside use each segment or link could provide.
- Whether a looped or linked system should be the initial recommendation.
- The proximity of each segment or link to the concentrations of Town residents.
- Whether the initial phase or all phases of the system should be limited to the Township and not be extended to complete a loop or connect to a destination, like the Jackson Town Park, outside the Township.
- The interest and character of the trail side, especially along the Townline segment touching the lakes, the DNR facilities at Thole and O'Dowd, the Town's Highland property, and outside the Town the Shakopee Park and the Stonebridge trail and clubhouse.
- The availability of parking for users along or near the link or segment.
- The relationship of the segment or link to the initial potential Town Park sites the Committee has identified.
- The contribution or each segment or link to the overall cost of each phase or stage.
- The opportunity to share the costs of each segment or link with other public agencies.
- The opportunity to provide the trail less expensively outside the ditch in the future when an easement can be taken at the time of proposed development of the adjacent property.
- The opportunity for selected off road connecting segments or links if made available by the owners.
- The opportunities and criteria for considering or triggering construction of segments and links not included in the first phase of implementation.

The Committee reached consensus on a proposed phase one core trail system to begin the implementation of the trails plan. This core plan will be confirmed at the next Committee meeting and will become the recommendation to the Town Board at their December 4 Monthly meeting.

B. Potential Town Park Sites

Mike Cronin arranged for a Landscape Architect / Park Site Planner to visit the potential park sites with the Committee. This will provide an informal initial identification and evaluation of the opportunities and constraints for development for park use for each of the sites for the Committee. The Committee will tour the potential sites on Saturday, November 22.

The Committee's next meeting was set for 7 P.M. on Monday, November 24 in Room 102 of the Scott County Government Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.