

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 24, 2003

7:00 PM

Durham Town Hall – Council Chambers

Attending were Kenneth Andersen, Denny Byrnes, Annmarie Harris, John Parry, and Frank Pilar from the Parks and Recreation Committee; Melanie Rose and Laurel Lambert from the Conservation Commission; Nancy Lambert and Byard Mosher from UNH Cooperative Extension, and Tony Federer, mapmaker from Durham.

I. Approval of the Minutes of Jan. 23, 2003.

The minutes were approved.

II. Public Comments.

The Public Comments are part of Item III.

III. Discussion Items

1. GPS/GIS trail mapping.

Nancy Lambert and her colleague Byard Mosher described how GPS/GIS technology could be used to develop trail maps. Tony Federer showed his outstanding maps of Durham, which are especially relevant for mapping trails in town. A lengthy discussion followed. We decided to devote our next meeting (May 22, 2003) to trails and figuring out how to proceed with this project.

2. Review of the accuracy of the "Outdoor Recreation Sites" 1991 publication.

Our collaborative effort with the Conservation Commission to reissue an updated version of the latter's 1991 publication "Outdoor Recreation Sites", is on track. We plan to have a new version ready for publication in the fall.

At an informal meeting held on February 3rd, we had assigned 22 of the sites to members of our joint committee with each member responsible for visiting several sites. These sites were visited during the winter and will be again in the spring/summer. A table listing the 22 recreational sites and their uses, taken from the 1991 Conservation Commission publication, was distributed. Committee members are to assess the accuracy of the 1991 information, make corrections to the table, and report at our next meeting on May 22nd. Sites and activities not listed in 1991 may be added and some deleted. For example, Davis Park and Linn Ponds seem slated for deletion and picnicking can be added to the Wiswall

Dam site. The presence or absence of parking at each site should be added to the table. Some Nature Conservancy lands should be added; Frank Pilar is looking into this.

3. Progress on a nature trail on the "40 Acre" Wagon Hill site.

The nature trail project is on track. Several of our joint-committee members visited the site wearing snowshoes on February 1st and concluded that a nature trail would be desirable.

4. Skateboard Park update.

Police Chief Dave Kurz reported by email on the status of the skateboard park project. A proposal to situate the park in the Jackson1s Landing arena is being considered.

5. Dredging of Mill Pond update.

The dredging of the Mill Pond, a project sponsored by the Conservation Commission, apparently has widespread support. Permits from DES needed for the work to begin are being sought. UNH, which is to use the dredged material to fill in some waterlogged athletic fields, also enters the picture. When all is ready, a branch of the U.S. Army will do the dredging. They will not be available until next year.

John Parry will meet at Mill Pond with Bill Skinner (Conservation Commission) and Mike Lynch (Department of Public Works) to mark vegetation which volunteers then will remove from the shoreline.

IV. New Business

There was none.

The meeting was adjourned about 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth K. Andersen