

Parks & Recreation Committee Minutes
Thursday, September 16, 2004
Durham Town Hall – Council Chambers
7:00 PM

Attending: Ken Andersen, Denny Byrne, Jane Crooks, George Lamb, Jerry Needell, and Melanie Rose

I. Public Comments

There were none

II. Approval of the Minutes of August 19, 2004

The minutes were approved.

III. Discussion Items

1. Report of the Trail Policy subcommittee chaired by Jane Crooks. Jane reported that the Town properties listed at the end of the Annual Town Report were ranked according to their relevance for recreation. Some properties were judged not relevant and removed from further consideration by the Subcommittee. The remaining properties were ranked according to their apparent usefulness for recreation. Members of the Subcommittee were assigned properties to visit and evaluate. Completion of these visitations should be complete by our October meeting if all goes well.

2. Reports on the Eagle Scout Trail Project at Wagon Hill Farm. Ken Andersen and Frank Pilar visited the Wagon Hill Farm trail on the _40 acre_ portion of the park located north of route 4. Boy Scout Doug Wilcox and his volunteers cleared the overgrown north-south trail from Watson Road to Route 4. The side trail leading east from the north-south trail was also cleared and a wooden bridge was constructed over a particularly wet spot. A trail-map sign was placed at the north end of the trail head.

3. Report on the Woodridge playground and tennis courts. Ken Andersen reported that the new playground and tennis courts at the Father Lawless Fields in Woodridge are now in use. Both facilities have been well-received based on anecdotal evidence. Current roller blading on the newly finished basketball court should be stopped, since its asphalt surface cannot withstand such use. Placement of a sign prohibiting rollerbladng on the basketball court will be requested from the Town.

4. Report on the Parks and Recreation Committee_s contribution to Durham Day, September 12 at Wagon Hill Farm. Ken Andersen reported that our informational booth, shared with the Conservation Commission, attracted a number of people and gave us a chance to spread the word about our activities and website.

5. Consideration of Wagon Hill Farm needs and policies.

A discussion led to the following recommendations:

- a. See if we could have a car-counter record the number visits to the park over a period of a year or more.
- b. Place a sign near Route 4 welcoming the public to the park.
- c. Place a sign near the parking lot with a map of the park.
- d. See if a drinking fountain/water source could be made available at the side of the house perhaps where the watering hose is located.
- e. See if a movable toilet could be placed near the water end of the park.
- f. Consider having volunteers remove the invasive purple loostrife growing in the park; i.e., near Route 4.
- g. Take steps to better acquaint Durham citizens with the park and its uses.

V. New Business

When the Annual Report is issued, we should have an insert, based on our website material, which describes the recreational areas in Durham and their many uses.

Kenneth K. Andersen, chair