

Attending: Ken Andersen, Denny Byrne, Jane Crooks, Cathy Leach, George Lamb, John Parry, Frank Pilar, David Proulx

The meeting was called to order at 1635 by Chair Parry. The main item of business was to discuss Cathy Leach's edited version of a document previously prepared by John Parry and entitled **Recommendations to Durham Town Council regarding the Mill Pond Center for the Arts and Oyster River Youth Association**.

Comments on Cathy's revised draft were generally favorable. Concerns were expressed about eventual costs. Some details, e.g. the ORYA budget request, were of concern. It was opined that it was not our committee responsibility to discuss details at this point. Cathy suggested that the Town Council should form a special subcommittee to study the problem. Jane Crooks said that she was concerned about the possible cost of the program. Concern was expressed that a partnership between the town and MPC might not work out. What would happen if the project fails? George Lamb supported Cathy Leach's suggestion that we not focus on details at present and instead trim down to conceptual specifics. With regard to the Mill Pond letter to Todd Selig on 11 September 2006, Denny Byrne stated that he cannot easily support the formal proposal. The concept can be supported but there are problems in certain details. It was mentioned that the town would gain greater recreational opportunities than now exist, but Denny Byrne did not concur. The question was posed: are there other opportunities elsewhere, e.g., at Wagon Hill Farm?

It was the consensus that we ignore the MPC letter for the moment in favor of supporting the general concept, leaving details to be worked out later. There was a general discussion of Paragraph 3 in Section I. It was recommended that the first version of this paragraph be omitted for the moment. It was suggested that the proposed Town Council subcommittee include at least two members of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Cathy Leach suggested that an important idea to emphasize is that the town needs to do more to provide recreational opportunities to its citizens. David Proulx suggested that we detail programs that the town now lacks. We must also avoid creating the impression that we are only bailing MPC out of financial problems and, instead, focus on creating a valuable contribution to the town's recreational opportunities. Cathy Leach emphasized that we should put our most concrete recommendations up front. It was also mentioned that it was important for the Parks and Recreation Committee to have input into all phases of the negotiations.

The Active Retirement Association (ARA) has toured the MPC facilities to consider possible relevance to their needs. Concerns were expressed about creating an additional entrance to the MPC facility.

Ken Andersen left the meeting at 1725.

It was decided that **Recommendations** under 1 a, b, c be moved elsewhere in the document and that #3 be omitted. Cathy Leach opined that #4 would be the hardest sell. David Proulx supports assuming administrative costs of ORYA but not its operational costs. These are \$170k for the present year, with \$270k being requested for next year.

George Lamb left the meeting at 1745.

Item #5 is to be omitted at the present. Some editing is needed on **III**. The question was posed: Should #1 be left in or edited?

Motion by Denny Byrne and seconded by Jane Crooks that we accept the proposal as amended to be presented to the Town Council. Approved.

David Proulx added the comment that the town should realize that ORYA cannot continue to exist without funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 1757.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank L. Pilar, Secretary