

**Durham Parks and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 2, 2006
7:00 PM
Durham Town Hall – Council Chambers**

Present: Ken Andersen, Denny Byrne, Jane Crooks, John Parry, Frank Pilar, and David Proulx. The meeting was called to order at 1911 by Chair Parry. There were no Public Comments. Chair not having received minutes of the 9-21-2006 meeting, approval was postponed to the next meeting.

1. Opening Topics. There was a brief discussion of the posting of NO HUNTING signs on Longmarsh Road. Tree-planting projects at various park areas were discussed. The cost estimate for the plantings was \$100 to \$200 per park with perhaps \$100 to \$150 for the Longmarsh area.

2. Report on Longmarsh Road Projects. Jane Crooks announced the following schedule for installing the boardwalk bypasses of beaver dams, etc. Friday 3 Nov. Dry Run, Saturday 4 Nov. Meet at 9 a.m. at the west end to begin installation work. Sunday 5 Nov. Continue installation work. There was a brief discussion of the proposed Adopt-a-Trail program and it was mentioned that the need was probably greatest on the Longmarsh Trail.

3. Jackson's Landing Proposal. The pre-proposal has been accepted and the full final proposal is due in approximately one month from now. The minimum cost is estimated to be \$75,000 with a 40% match required from the town. Projects to be done include paving, waterfront relocation, filtration of rain runoff, ramp removal, etc.

4. Memorial Bench at Wiswall Dam Site. A memorial bench is planned to be installed in memory of Crescentia (Healy) True. Crescentia was the daughter of former Town Councilor Bill Healy.

5. Public Survey for Recreational Use. Denny Byrne and Bob Barcelone (RMP, UNH) reported on the upcoming public survey. The survey is to be planned by UNH student Damon Smith. A tentative needs assessment form was passed out and discussed. Considerable discussion ensued as to the most efficient way for the public to indicate their needs and priorities. A summary of the responses will be made available to P&R as well to the Durham townspeople. It was suggested that the P&R meeting that discusses the results should be broadcast on TV (Channel 22). Discussion arose as to how wide the survey should be, e.g., all Durham households (ca. 2800), or by some random selection process still to be determined. Discussion ensued as to how e-mail could be utilized to facilitate the responses and when should the survey be done. It was decided that the public should be notified via the Friday newsletter that the survey would begin shortly after the Xmas Holiday season.

6. Discussion of the Durham Recreational Program to be Presented to the Town Council. A preliminary draft of the proposal was passed out by Denny Byrne. The three parts of the proposal comprised recommendations of overall recreational needs and future planning, MPCA concerns, and ORYA concerns. There were a number of mixed comments, mostly dealing with expected tax increases. It was mentioned that the issue of the library location was still undecided. Denny Byrne suggested that the ORYA issue should be give priority over the MPCA issue. Chair Parry is scheduled to present the highlights of the issues at the upcoming Town Council meeting.

A motion was made by Denny Byrne and seconded by Frank Pilar that ORYA be given priority over MPCA and the the first line of item 1 of the Recommendations on Page 4 be reworded as

follows: The Parks and Recreation Committee is in favor of a continued study of the acquisition of the MPCA property. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next meeting of P&R will be held on Thursday 14 December.

Respectfully submitted, Frank L. Pilar, Secretary