

Open Space/Master Plan Committee Minutes
Town Hall, Banquet Hall
Minutes of June 4, 2009

Members Present: Gwen Broz, Kevin Damon, Sarah Heller, Tim Simon, William Simpson Jr.

Members Absent: Cheri Carty, Sharon Mahoney

Guests: CMRPC consultant Trish Settles;
Recreation Committee members Denise Senosk and Brenda McElroy

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chair Bill Simpson.

A) Minutes. No minutes were approved.

B) Correspondence. (1) Copy of a letter from Selectmen to CMRPC asking for funding of Master Plan from DLTA grants available for 2009. Bill will leave in our mailbox and email Carol Childress; (2) Invoice #1420 dated May 20 from CMRPC: \$14,865 (Task 1 100%; Task 2 90%; Task 3 75%). Bill will leave in the mailbox and email Cheri.

C) Discussion about OSRP with Recreation Committee members about what to include in the goals.

1. **Drainage at Lewis Field is highest priority.** This is a safety issue. There is an open drainage ditch near the softball field. It needs to be a covered culvert that children cannot get into and that does not erode the ground of the playing field. This should be addressed immediately by the highway dept rather than wait for the OSRP implementation.
2. **Walkway on Rt 148 from Mill Street to Lake Road.**
3. **Full-sized (Senior) Ball Field.** The fields at Lewis Field are not full sized. There are some at Tantasqua but they are used by Tantasqua sports and not available.
4. **Get the state to upgrade Town Beach area on South Pond.** The state Fish and Game has a plan to secure access, provide parking and put in guard rails so people can't drive on the beach. They said they would do all this last year. In exchange, our Rec Committee agreed to maintain the beach and provide a lifeguard. The Rec Committee has purchased all the provisions necessary (everything on the state's list) and are waiting for the state to do the work. Once the beach is improved, the Rec Com would hire a life guard and buddy (so the guard would not be alone at the beach). Trish provided Brenda and Denise with a facility checklist for the Rec Committee to fill out for the beach area. This will go into the Open Space and Recreation Plan.
5. **At this time, other summer recreation programs are not needed** because Tantasqua is running a summer sports camp for all ages. Program is listed at Tantasqua.org.
6. **Outdoor ice skating rink at Lewis Field.** This would be a temporary rink that is flooded in the winter and removed in the summer.
7. **Lighting at Lewis Field.** This is partially done as there is electricity at the site.
8. **Triathlon or Road Races.** These could be fundraisers as well as a good way to publicize Brookfield. "Summer marathons" in which students would log how many miles they have run or walked until they reach 26 are also being considered.
9. **Guided walks on trails** are another suggestion.
10. **Better access to the Elementary School.** There is some access for basketball on weekends but

otherwise it is difficult for the Rec Committee to use the school. Need to work with the principal and school committee to find a way to allow the Rec committee to use the school during holidays and summertime. One problem is the gym being in the middle of the school rather than near an entrance. There is a written policy document signed between the school and the Rec committee about school usage but there is still difficulty getting access.

11. **A youth center.** For social and recreational activities. Right now youths gather at the library and at the gazebo on the common.

D) Recreation Committee described some of their present activities.

1. **Sports teams.** Basketball, soccer, baseball all levels. This year the rec committee subsidized registration fee and had even more sign-ups than last year. Definitely filling a need with 137 children aged 5-16 in baseball; 130 children Grades 1-6 in basketball. There is also adult basketball at the Elementary school and Women's Softball at Lewis Field. There is a banquet at the end of each sports season.
2. **Bus trips to Foxwoods.** Seniors take advantage of Foxwoods trips.
3. **Bus trips to local professional sports teams.** The Tornadoes and the Sharks.
4. **Family Fun Day in the summer.** All kind of games and activities at this all day event. Well-attended and enjoyed by all. Quaboag Equipment helped out a lot with this.
5. **Halloween.** This is a big event in town. Again, would be easier if there were the use of the elementary school.

E) Discussion with Trish about OSRP.

1. **Historical Committee input.** Trish will incorporate the information Ron Couture of the Historical Committee gave her at a meeting held earlier in the day with Tim Simon, Sarah Heller, John O'Leary, Ron Couture and Trish Settles. Among the points discussed were the Old Brookfield - Quaboag Plantation Trail system that Ron has been working on. It was suggested that perhaps boy scouts, girl scouts or other groups could be enlisted to maintain the trails. Signage is also needed to indicate the trails. Ron said that the trails are all on public land.

Scenic roads were also discussed. Signage has now been put up on the roads to indicate where they start and stop. There needs to be more education with town boards as to their responsibility to maintain the scenic roads.

There was discussion about using the high school community service interns as a resource.

2. **Changes in recommendations.** High Priorities: Goal 1, A (1) Protecting inventoried archaeological sites; Goal 1, B (2) Protecting unpaved section of original Boston Post Road; Goal 1, E (1) Implementing appropriate zoning controls to minimize development impacts; Goal 1, F, (3) Establish an agriculture commission and a right to farm bylaw (make this F1 instead of F3); Goal 3, A (1) Establish agriculture commission, right to farm bylaw and promote community gardening; Goal 3, C (1) Recycling bins in municipal buildings and other public places. It was suggested that these could be supplied by sponsoring Brookfield businesses.

There was discussion about the appropriateness of having Goal 1, G - Passing the CPA be High priority. No conclusions reached.

Agricultural Incubator. There was discussion about having common agricultural land and machinery to encourage agriculture in Brookfield. Under Goal 3, A (3), the following phrase was added: "including community farmland".

Under Goal 4, A, it was decided to add #5: "Improve relations between the elementary school and town recreation groups."

Under Goal 5, C, add #2: "Planning Board will designate an Implementation Committee (Preferably with representation from Recreation, Conservation, and Historical Commissions and DPW) and will develop with them a regular schedule for status/update reports to the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen."

3. **Acknowledgments:** Sarah will draft a list of all the people who have helped with the OSRP and email to Trish.
4. **Letters of approval of OSRP from different groups.** Planning Board, QQLA (Lake Association), Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee, Opacum Land Trust, Board of Selectmen, CMRPC. Others? Trish will give us a form letter to use as a model.
5. **Planning Board input by June 18.** Tim will give the chairman a printed copy and Sarah will email PB members an electronic copy for review. Trish would like all comments by June 18. Point out that we are asking the Planning Board to designate an implementation committee.

D) PR for Citizen on Economic Development. Bill will contact Brian Rossetti about writing an article for the July Citizen about the Economic Development Chapter.

E) Housing Chapter. Gwen suggested adding to the goals the following: "Enact bylaws encouraging any developer to have affordable housing". After discussion, it was agreed that this would not be a good idea because it could tie the hands of the Planning Board and the Town. This idea should be taken up in the housing plan document that will be written at a later date.

Kevin noted that in the recommendations, references to Objectives D & E should be reversed. Kevin also asked about where is Appendix X, list of current affordable housing in town.

There was discussion about including infrastructure that supports the quality of life in town, such walkways.

E) Next Meetings: June 18, 6:30pm is our last scheduled meeting. We are meeting with Rosemary on Housing. Trish can come if we need to discuss OSRP. We agreed to hold meetings on 1st and 3rd Weds. In July and August. We need to coordinate with Planning to try to meet with them at the beginning of their meetings. Sarah will post our meetings for July 1, July 15, August 5 and August 19, all at 6:30pm.

G) Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Heller, Secretary

Date approved by the Committee: 7/1/09

Date submitted to the Selectmen's office: 7/2/09