

Parks and Natural Resources Committee

Tuesday August 20, 2019 7:00 PM
Mansfield Town Hall Conference Room B

Minutes -- FINAL

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM

2. Roll Call

Attending: Jim Morrow (Chair), Ken Feathers (secretary), Michael Soares, Julianna Barrett (alt.)

Not present but on committee roster: Quentin Kessel (Cons. Com. Rep.), Tom Harrington, Sue Harrington, Vicky Wetherell

Town Staff Present: Jennifer Kaufman

3. Opportunity for Public comment

No members of the public were present.

4. Review of Minutes

The Minutes of the July 16, 2019 meeting were approved (moved Soares, second Morrow)

5. New Business

• *Last Green Valley Community Enrichment Grant*

The Last Green Valley provides a grant opportunity, with a required 1:1 match, which can be met by in-kind services. Town staff propose to use this as an opportunity to move development of the Simpson property forward by applying to partner with Boy Scout Troop 56 to improve trail delineation, construct two water crossings and a boardwalk, and establish signage and a trail guide/map. A project summary was provided with the meeting material and was discussed.

Motion adopted by consensus: (moved Morrow seconded Barrett) that the committee supports a town grant application to the Last Green Valley Grant Community Enrichment Grant Program for improving public access and awareness of the Simpson-Wood Preserve.

There was some tangential discussion of whether the use of various terms such as Park, Preserve, Forest, or Sanctuary had any implications for management. The group concluded that the specific names were not intended to imply any particular approach to property management for a protected parcel, and the specifics of management for the parcel were best delineated in the management plan that is reviewed and adopted.

• *Mansfield Trail Finder Project*

Town staff called to the committee's attention a NWCOC GIS application that consolidated all trail information for their region and noted that it could be viewed online.

Town Staff indicated a similar GIS project is being developed in cooperation with Joshua's Trust to increase trail awareness in Mansfield. It would incorporate recent GIS trail information gathered by a town intern and combine this mapping already existing for Joshua's Trust, DEEP, UCONN and CFPA trail information to develop a trail finder for all Mansfield area trails.

If successful the intent is for this project to be scalable, and to expand the mapping to the entire JT service area, and possibly the entire Last Green Valley area.

There was some discussion of meeting sustainability goals by ensuring there was foreign language information, and considering linking with information about other transportation modes, such as bus and bike routes.

- *Mansfield Town Staff organization and duties (added to agenda)*

Town Staff informed the committee of some reorganization occurring in town offices and duties for staff. These changes may allow increased coordination between the committee and the Parks Department and Community Center. As an example, the committee was informed of a community center event for highly active attenders that would be, by invitation, at Schoolhouse Brook Park on September 18th, 5-7 PM, and would include a local food dinner and a short walk in the park. Details are still being finalized.

6. Continuing business

There was no specific continuing business on the agenda.

7. Communications

Minutes as noted in the agenda were included in the meeting packet as internet links.

8. Executive session in accordance with CGS section 1200(6)(D)

There was no executive session on the agenda, and none was held

9. Future Agendas

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM by consensus (moved Feathers, seconded Merrow)

Respectively Submitted
Ken Feathers, Secretary