

Worcester Recreation Committee Minutes

Location: Doty Music/Art Room

Time: 10/06/2022 6:47pm-8:09pm

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1 Members Present

1. Michael
2. Caitlin
3. Chris
4. Nancy
5. Tracker

2 Gathering Data on the Ladd Field

Caitlin checked with Katie Miller (Town Treasurer) to find out who is currently administrating use of the Ladd Field. Katie was unsure who was responsible for this resource but believes it is instead under informal use by pre-existing organizations.

Sports teams are responsible for setting up and maintaining their goals, painted lines, etc.

The Town of Worcester’s Highway Department mows the field.

Chris shared his prior experience in working through a disagreement with the sports teams that were using the field some years back. At the time, he coordinated with the Ladd Field Committee. Our group expects to assume this adjudication responsibility going forward.

The committee plans to prepare a master document/calendar to outline which organizations are making use of various portions of the field and at what times. Michael suggested that we should post it on the town website.

Caitlin obtained a binder containing the old minutes from the Town Office and brought it to the meeting for the committee to review as well as a map delineating the bounds of the recreational and agricultural use sections of the Ladd Field and Haymeadow parcels.

We also discussed putting out a survey of the community to determine what recreation activities we should prioritize.

The idea of creating an ice skating rink was proposed and considered.

We also discussed the grant restrictions around constructing structures (such as a pavilion) on the field. Our initial reading of the relevant documents led us to believe that this construction may be permitted.

2.1 Tasks

- Nancy will check with her cousin to determine the provenance of the various plots of land donated to Worcester and/or placed under a land trust.
- Nancy will create a Google Groups mailing list for the committee (to be named **worcester-rec-committee@googlegroups.com**).
- Nancy will create a Google Drive for us to collate our files in.
- Caitlin will follow up with the Vermont Land Trust to gather additional information about what we need to do as administrators of the enrolled land.
- Caitlin will speak with Gillian about whether materials for building/maintaining an ice skating rink are still available at the school.
- Caitlin will contact the Selectboard to request that they send any groups our way that want to use the field next Spring (e.g., Onion River Soccer Club and Capital Soccer League).

3 Trail Systems

The committee had a brief initial discussion about how we might move forward with cataloguing the existing public trails in town and begin to reach out to private landowners who might be willing to create or make available trails on their parcels.

Tracker mentioned some of the information he had collected during 2020 in his exploratory conversations with representatives of the Calais Trails Committee. He also offered his professional experience in GIS for creating updated maps of the town trails.

Chris shared some of the hiking trail GPS data that he has collected personally in town as an additional contribution to our data gathering efforts.

4 Next Meeting

Thursday, November 3rd @ 6:30pm at the Doty Music/Art Room