

# Worcester Recreation Committee Minutes

Location: Town Hall

Time: 03/02/2023 6:40pm-8:43pm

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## 1 Members Present

1. Caitlin
2. Tracker
3. Nancy

## 2 Guests Present

- Josh Seidman
- Matt Wooliever

## 3 Approval of Minutes

The committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from 2023-02-02.

## 4 Old Business

### 4.1 Vermont Land Trust Management Plan, Review of Section 4

Since 2/5 of our committee members were not present at this meeting, the members in attendance agreed to table this effort until next meeting.

#### 4.1.1 Action Items

**Everyone** Review section 4 and add comments by the next meeting.

- Note: The document may be found in the committee's shared Google Drive.

### 4.2 Existing Town Trails

#### 4.2.1 Middlesex Trail

Tracker was unable to download the track.geojson files that Chris posted to our Google Drive due to permissions issues. Caitlin downloaded and shared it with Tracker during the meeting.

Tracker visualized the GPS track on the parcel map of Worcester and identified the following adjoining property owners:

- William and Joanne Hoblit
- Michele and Roger Hill
- Jerrold Mackenzie and Katherine Stone
- Fearn Lickfield
- Jeffrey Mackenzie

#### 1. Action Items

**Tracker** Contact Joanne Mankoff with the Middlesex Trails Committee to update her on the information that we have collected about the proposed trail.

**Tracker** Send the mailing list all of the landowner agreement documents that he has collected from the Calais Trail Committee.

## 4.2.2 Review Progress - Trail/Road Map

Tracker presented the GIS vector map he prepared from the driving assessment of Route 12 with Josh. The map breaks down the stretch of Route 12 through the Town of Worcester's boundaries into 0.1 mile segments, each of which is labeled with a rating of how much development would be required to improve the road for a bike lane along that stretch as well as which properties lie adjacent to it.

Nancy proposed the idea of forming a subcommittee to oversee the bike lane idea.

### 1. Action Items

**Caitlin** Create a Google Doc for collecting potential advocates on the bike lane proposal and distribute it to the mailing list.

**Everyone** Add ideas for bike lane advocates to the document.

## 4.3 VAC Animating Infrastructure Grant

### 4.3.1 Resurfacing Court Options

Caitlin raised the issue that this grant won't cover all the costs of resurfacing the basketball court. She proposed writing a grant proposal to National Life to draw in more money for this effort.

She also noted that if the hired artist can restrict themselves to the color palettes available to the resurfacers, then we might be able to use some of the arts grant money for resurfacing.

### 1. Action Items

**Caitlin** Finish the second round grant submission to the Animating Infrastructure Grant by March 14th.

**Caitlin** Write a supplementary proposal to National Life prior to March 31st.

## 4.4 Survey Results

We received 83 online responses and at least 1 paper response to the survey.

- 96% of respondents live in Worcester.
- Other respondents came from Calais.

Top recreation choices from respondents were:

- Hiking/Walking
- Gardening
- Swimming
- Skiing
- Cycling
- Sledding

Highest priorities for pedestrian walkways, trails, and bike lanes were:

- Increased connectivity for public/private trails
- Walkways around the village center
- Bike lanes on Route 12

Pavilion Responses:

- 68.7% Yes
- 27.7% Maybe
- 3.6% No

Some concerns raised with the pavilion were about issues of maintenance and noise for nearby properties.

Josh proposed putting up a grove of trees for a cool shaded area as an alternative to a pavilion. The committee would need to verify whether tree planting was allowed on either the recreation or agricultural sections of the Ladd Field.

Respondents who were willing to assist with the pavilion:

- Fundraising: 33.9%
- Building: 25.8%
- Donate Funds: 51.6%

Ice Skating Rink:

- 65.0%: Yes
- 28.7%: Maybe
- 6.3%: No

Further discussion was had around the popularity of trail connectivity around town. In particular, we identified the need to coordinate with the Worcester Rangers around non-snowmobiling uses of the existing VAST trails in town.

#### 4.4.1 Action Items

**Caitlin** Share the survey responses with the committee members, Josh, and Matt.

**Caitlin** Print paper copies of the survey and bring to Town Meeting.

**Josh** Summarize survey responses and send to the WRC mailing list.

**Josh** Identify those survey respondents who are in favor of bike lanes and add them to advocacy Google Doc.

**Caitlin** Post a summary of the survey results to FPF after Town Meeting.

## **4.5 Route 12 Repaving Bike Lanes**

### **4.5.1 Action Items**

**Josh** Connect the WRC with his VTrans contact.

**Caitlin** Collect quotes from the survey in favor of the bike lanes.

**Caitlin** Send an email to the CVRPC with survey summary and quotes.

**Michael** Send the committee a list of any organizations that might be interested in collaborating with the WRC on this effort.

## **4.6 CVRPC**

Caitlin reported that our CVRPC contact pointed her at some grants for improving pedestrian safety, such as painted crosswalks, etc.

The committee discussed options around making the bridge on Calais Road safer for pedestrians and bikers, including a bike lane or flashing lights on the drive.

### **4.6.1 Action Items**

**Caitlin** Send a link about the CVRPC grant to the WRC mailing list.

## **5 New Business**

### **5.1 Addition of New Members**

The committee discussed and voted to approve a formal procedure for vetting new members on the WRC prior to submitting a recommendation for their addition to the Selectboard.

The committee then voted to approve adding Josh Seidman to the committee.

#### **5.1.1 Action Items**

**Caitlin** Submit the recommendation to the Selectboard for adding Josh to the WRC.

### **5.2 ORSC Request**

The Onion River Soccer Club submitted a request to use the Ladd Field for their soccer games, following the same usage patterns that they've adhered to in the past. At this time, the committee is not aware of any complaints against them.

Caitlin would like to request that we have a copy of their schedule for their games and practices for the upcoming season once they have prepared it.

The committee voted to approve the ORSC request with the stipulation that we receive a copy of their schedule as noted above.

### **5.3 Town Meeting**

Caitlin offered to speak for the WRC at our upcoming Town Meeting on March 7, 2023.

## **6 Next Meeting**

Thursday, April 6th @ 6:30pm at the Doty Music/Arts Room