



**Meeting Minutes  
December 8, 2020**

**Present:** Todd Hathaway, Liz Wilson, Scott Pim, Ben Bade, Sandy Goodspeed, Joseph Trombley, Dan McCombs

**Absent:** None

**Call to Order:** 7:01 p.m.

**PERMITS:**

Thomas Burns of TF Moran presented a site plan related to the Sig Sauer “Experience” project, which is multi-use building with combination of shooting range, retail, classrooms, office space, and exhibition/museum space. The design is for a two story building, west of the entrance driveway. The proposed building envelope would encroach upon the 75’ buffer of the wetland. There would be no encroachment into the actual wetland, and there is a proposed bio-retention area/retreatment and revegetation of slopes after construction. There is also a DES alteration of terrain permit application pending, and wildlife impact study, but no wildlife impacts are anticipated. There would no increased runoff anticipated. There would be all native species within the bio-retention area. The impact is largely related to a cistern on the west side of the building, and propane tanks, although those tanks are being removed in favor of using natural gas from Route 27. The Members asked about possible reorientation of the cistern and/or the building. Mr. Burns explained that the space is tight based on wetlands in surrounding areas and well setbacks. Mr. Pim explained our traditional preference to consider approval of relatively small buffer impacts that are not permanent and after all alternative options are ruled out first. Mr. Burns indicated that he was not sure if the state would allow the cistern to be moved to the east side so that it would be within the proposed well radius, but he will investigate and report back. He felt that the propane tanks could be moved. There were also ideas shared about reorienting the loading dock, retention wall, and/or reorienting the building slightly to meet the angel of the road. If the cistern cannot be placed within the well radius, Mr. Burns was asked to provide additional information about why the project could not be located on other areas of the site. Assuming the cistern could be moved to the east side, and the retaining wall and loading dock issues could be addressed, the Members indicated that they would likely support the application.

**COMMISSION VACANCY:**

Barbara Willis has been our liaison for Pollinator Pathways and is a retired teacher and paralegal interested helping more by expressing interest in filling our vacant seat. Sandy moved, and Scott seconded, endorsement of Barbara’s application to join the Commission. The Members voted unanimously to endorse Barbara’s membership to fill the rest of John’s remaining term, which we believe to March 2023.



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**OUTREACH:**

Scott had nothing new to report at this time about the precast concrete weir Intern Project.

**SIGNS:**

Hoar Pond - The cost of a small sign similar to others we've installed recently will be the same, approximately \$875. Todd questioned whether signage should be considered part of a larger plan for this area, however. Such as work on parking, potential trails, etc. Trails Committee will turn attention to Hoar Pond after completing Low Park.

Mary Blair Park historic trail signs - The quote for two small signs and 10 arrow markers would be approximately \$2375 (\$875 x 2 medium sized signs + \$750 for arrows). The Members discussed the possibility of using granite posts for the signs, but there would be a lot of posts for the project. Todd also raised the possibility of changing the signage text slightly to "Mary Blair Historic Trail," and "Thanks for Visiting Mary Blair Historic Trial." Sandy will follow up with Mr. Vose about that suggestion. If ok, Todd will follow-up with the sign maker about starting work over the winter.

10 Pack out your trash signs – Ben placed five signs; Fox Run, Low Park, Folsom, and Hoar Pond. He has 5 move in reserve.

Fox Run Park Sign rehabilitation – Still on hold for January.

Miriam Jackson Historic sign – Sandy is working towards putting together the sign. She has taken picture of her house and done more research. She will obtain a design for review.

**LOW PARK – PICNIC TABLE:**

Todd confirmed that the picnic table is being stored outdoors, we might as well have it delivered to the site. Todd will arrange to have this done.

**TRAILS:**

Low Park - We're aiming for spring for a work day. Todd will select a date and enlist volunteers. He indicated that the trail markings are in good shape and it should be a relatively short project.

Mary Blair Park by the river – Scott has not yet heard back from the surveyor about a proposal for the work. He will follow-up. We also need to monitor for possible DES notification of action involving the site. Sandy will follow-up with Greg about whether something has been received.



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Scott and Sandy also discussed the addition of parking (10-20 cars) in an effort to reduce parking close to the river bank, while allowing additional parking. The project would involve some significant tree removal. We'll have the survey completed first, and then Scott and Sandy will set up at meeting with the Rec. Department and EYAA about next steps and their interest in pursuing the project.

Fox Run - Joel will take down two trees over the path. Todd reported that the trails are in good shape.

**BRIDGES:**

Fox Run - Preston repaired it for \$375; Sandy requested his reimbursement.

The Members expressed appreciation for Preston's work. Thank you Preston!

**MONITORING:**

Hall Easement - Ben and volunteers are planning to go out Saturday 12/12. Thank you!

**MINUTES:**

The Minutes from November were previously submitted to the Secretary and the Members had no changes.

**BUDGET, FINANCIAL REPORT, AND EXPENSES:**

2021 Proposed Budget - Dan presented a proposed budget for 2021, with Sandy's input. It is \$6,027.88 annually. The purpose is to pay for annual expenses separately so that we can save LUCT for major projects, like Clarke Farm, Harvey-Kennard, etc. Joe indicated that there is full support from the Selectboard as very good value for the money. He did not know what the Budget Committee would do.

**WARRANT ARTICLES:**

Warrant Article approval regarding spending funds with no property interest – The Town Counsel approved that language and will submit it.

Warrant Article approval – Class A trail abutters - Scott worked on this over the past month, and feels that this is best tabled until next year for more work.



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**BEARD SAND PIT**

Liz followed-up with DES and Planning and no further action has been taken since July. Liz has asked Greg to look into the action to follow-up. Joe indicated that there is a new Town Planner starting soon and he will ask that this be put on the agenda.

**PLANNING ISSUES**

The members discussed some strategies generally for more communication and collaboration about Town planning issues. Once the new Planner starts, we will explore potential options for communication, such as cross-attendance at meetings.

**JANUARY ITEMS**

- Photo Contest – Dan
- School update – Liz
- George Falls Woods - trail work & park sign
- Dimond Hill – more signs to be installed - Ben
- Fox Run – Mounting alphabet trail signs; school outreach? Liz

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Volunteer liability – Sandy questioned whether we need a liability waiver form. Todd discussed issues relating to volunteer and municipal liability, and Sandy will explore with Greg and/or Town Counsel over whether we should be using some type of form.

Adjourn: 9:05 pm

Next Meeting:

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Todd Hathaway*

Todd Hathaway, Secretary



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