

Parks and Public Spaces Committee Meeting
6/18/2013, 1:00, Cockadoodle Cafe

People present, Ola O'Dell, Laura Rubenis, Rosalie Benson, Dave Aiken, Lisa Campbell, and Robert Taylor.

1.) While waiting for folks to arrive, Bob Taylor asked how public volunteer efforts are publicized. Lisa and Laura noted that volunteer projects are publicly noted on the Town website, in the Herald of Randolph, and on Facebook. Bob said that he and Sheila read the paper, and would keep an eye on that.

2.) Bob mentioned discussed \$\$ with Del in the morning prior to this meeting. He related that Del is looking for timelines/proposals for projects around town. Bob recommended that the committee list everything needed.

3.) Bob met with Monica from Chippers regarding Heidi's proposed project at the Bethel Common. Laura Rubenis joined them to get an idea of the scope of the project. The proposal includes weeding, dividing plants (Chippers has offered to store those plants that won't be used), then adding in 30-60 additional perennials. The cost to the town would be \$750-1000, with Chippers donating labor and consultation. Chippers has an invoice ready to go, if approved by the committee. Bob noted that he could secure independent financing, if the committee's main concern was money.

4.) Laura and Monica looked at other town sites after the meeting at the Common. These sites included Peavine Park, the stonewall on Main Street by Richardsons, Fort Fortitude, and the River Street bridge sites. Monica told Laura that the Chipper's support can be applied to any of these sites, and can be done as late as early fall.

5.) Regarding the recent proposal presented by Robert Taylor on behalf of Heidi Nikolaidis (see Select Board Meeting Notes 6/10/13), the Parks and Public Spaces Committee has several concerns regarding this independent project.

Our concerns include:

- a.)The prioritization of current and future needs/projects concerning public spaces
- b.)The increased labor associated with the future maintenance of added plantings
- c.)The increased labor and logistics associated with the transplanting of removed plants to other public spaces
- d.)The Bethel Commons area presently requires only minimal weeding and maintenance, not professional intervention.
- e.)The cost of the project. To date, public spaces have been made possible through the donations of local residents and volunteers.

Based on these concerns and our currently scheduled projects, the Parks and Public Spaces Committee does not recommend a project in the Bethel Commons area.

6.) The committee has created a prioritized list of projects in the public spaces around town. We respectfully suggest that the money that was proposed to be spent on the Common project could be applied to other areas. The areas with the most pressing needs would include the stone walls by the beds at Richardson's, and the proposed public areas at the new River Street bridge. Please see attached project list.

7.) Ola proposed to the committee that we consider planting more daffodil bulbs around town, to tie together all the towns public spaces. She noted that Dave Aiken has an excellent source for these bulbs. Dave agreed to get a copy of the catalog to Ola, and they will work together to spearhead this project this Fall.

8.) Del's request for proposals of Peavine Park projects (see notes of meeting with Del, Don and Lisa).

a.) Gazebo - the committee would like to propose that river stone be placed from the base of the gazebo out to the drip line from the roof (in order to maintain the air circulation essential to the integrity of the wooden building). We would like to then maintain a small garden bed about a foot wide outside the rock surrounding the building.

b.) Garden bed at the sign - the committee proposes a bed defined by landscape timbers set into the road bank. Rosalie wondered if local businesses would donate, or provide the materials at a reduced cost.

9.) Fort Fortitude

a.) The committee would like to mark the "keepers" at Fort Fortitude before they are trimmed. Ola noted that Bob Taylor is very knowledgeable about shrubs, and might be willing to lend his expertise to this project.

b.) In response to a concern about the stairs, Lisa noted that Del had said that he would take responsibility for researching and initiating the replacement of the stairs from the sidewalk, and a railing.

10.) Ola asked if the bank above the Richardson's beds could be mowed.

11.) Bethel Community Potluck in August will be sponsored by P&PS. It will take place on 8/11/13, from 5-8pm, at Peavine Park. Lisa agreed to call Joanie at the town office and schedule the event.

12.) Lisa relayed a request from Abbie that the committee schedule their work projects with Joanie to insure that there will be no conflicts with other scheduled events.

13.) The committee feels strongly about completing the repairs to the boat launch this summer. We received donations from local businesses for the materials, and would like to get the project wrapped up. We initially touched base with the river conservancy to get a consult, but their schedules have not allowed follow up. We will talk to the local

folks who initially installed the launch, and try to get the project scheduled.

14.) Laura and Rosalie requested some mulch, and a shrub to initiate the work on the North Rd triangle. Lisa spoke with Del, who will have the mulch delivered to the spot, and approved the purchase of a small shrub (6/24/13)

The meeting adjourned at 1:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Campbell
Committee Chair