

Twin Brook Minutes September 8, 2015

Attendance:

Jackie Stowell
Iwana Tarling
Kay Fowler
Anne Witte
Joe Loring
John Leavitt
Shirley Story-King - Councilor
Christopher Bolduc – Staff
Laura Neleski – Staff
Don Stowell
Jeff Storey

6:30pm – Call to Order

Motion to accept the Minutes of July 8, 2015

Motion by John Leavitt
Seconded by Iwana Tarling
Vote: Unanimous

Old Business:

General discussion on the Forestry Plan: Christopher Bolduc - We are currently working on landing locations and while doing the harvesting they will be looking at trail creation and maintenance/drainage as well. We did not get the grant that we had applied for to replace the cement culvert but we have another opportunity to apply and if that still doesn't go through, then we'll have to see if it can make it through the budget process.

Dog Policy discussion; Ordinance committee still looking at the ordinance. Ms. Tarling was very concerned and disappointed with the transparency of the process (What does 'still looking at it' mean) and the lack of hard documentation leading up to the ordinance in the first place. She felt the ordinance was based on very little information of park and when the park was heavily or lightly used. Members worried the ordinance was made to pacify a few complaints that were not even documented. Ms. Tarling also was concerned that surveys were being taken but not published and not used in a meaningful way – why take a survey if not going to act on the information? The process was clarified by staff and the member that was most outspoken understood some items that she had missed – but group was still concerned that their advice was not sought out or given more weight with the Council. They also asked if they could partner with the Ordinance Committee in relooking at this ordinance.

Disc Golf – About 50 cards a month were being used. There is not much revenue being generated, but there are also not discs available, just the cards and baskets. Ms. Witte said she had seen people out playing the game. Mr. Leavitt felt that the program has not had the success that was hoped for and wondered if it had been oversold to the group. Mr. Bolduc said that it had paid for itself and people were enjoying it.

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Mowing – Continues to be a concern for the group. Ms. Witte inquired about the need to mow the overflow parking so often. Mr. Leavitt thought that 80% of the Park Departments staff was used to mow at Twin Brook and would like to see mowing area cut down. Mr. Bolduc said that the area mowed had been reduced and mowing really fell under operations. If the group wanted to change operations they would have to put together a proposal/recommendation and bring it the Council for consideration. With the topic of mowing came a question regarding pesticides and fertilizers. Mr. Bolduc stated chemicals are used sparingly and only on playing fields. The group wanted to know if any other plans were in the works for irrigating any other sections of the park. Mr. Bolduc said that irrigation plans were complete.

Ms. Witte commented that she would like to see the Brook Trail connect with the Wilderness trail.

New Business:

Ms. Fowler told the group about an agreement between the Fowler Family and the Town, where the agreement said that the Town Manager would recommend to the Council that the Town owned land beside the Spring Brook Farm would have a conservation/farming easement established with rights to use this pasture land given to the Farm. She realized when the land was being surveyed as a possible location for a Town Garage this past year, that no easement had ever been established and the town could use the pasture land as they saw fit. Mr. Storey spoke to the group to impress upon them how important having a long term easement was to his business. They asked the Twin Brook Committee to support them in keeping this land agricultural, in particular, keeping it available always for the use of Spring Brook Farm by recommending the Town Council ensure the Agreement Between the Fowler Family and the Town of Cumberland be enforced.

Ms. Witte asked how to best support the Fowlers and Jeff Storey and was told a motion to support could be made.

Mr. Leavitt made a motion: “The Twin Brook Committee supports Spring Brook Farm and the Fowlers in asking the Town to have Item 14 in the August of 2005 Agreement with the Fowlers followed through with, establishing a permanent easement for farming and conservation on the Town owned land adjacent to the Spring Brook Farm”.

Ms. Stowell seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.

8:00pm - Adjourned

Motion by Joe Loring

Seconded by Anne Witte

Vote: Unanimous