

Twin Brook Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes March 1st 2011

Present:

Jackie Stowel

Kay Fowler

Joe Loring

John Leavitt

John Eldridge

Steve Moriarty – Council

Jeff Porter – Council

Bill Shane – Town Manager

Peter Bingham – Recreation

Chris Bolduc – Public Services

Karen Marden – Resident

Gage Galletti – Resident

Karen Galletti – Resident

Meeting opened at 1830 hours by Acting Chair John Leavitt

John Leavitt announced that Joe Reynolds had stepped down from the committee, leaving two vacant seats.

Steve Moriarty advised the committee that the council would be interviewing Iwona Tarling before their next council meeting; Mrs. Tarling is interested in severing on the committee.

Approval of the Minutes:

John Leavitt asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes of the of the February 8th meeting and if there was a motion for approval. After a brief review and discussion a motion was made by John Eldridge to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Kay Fowler, approved by a vote of 5-0.

Agenda:

John Leavitt introduced Town Manager Bill Shane who has come to the committee with Karen Marden to discuss the potential of a community garden at the Twin Brook Facility.

Bill Shane advised the committee that after being approached with the concept of a community garden in the town of Cumberland, he looked at many town owned parcels and determined that the Twin Brook facility on Tuttle Road was the best location due to its vast open space and the ability to access water through isolating the existing irrigation system. Bill showed a map of the Twin Brook facility and the location of the approximate one acre site located on the easterly

side of the last parking lot. Bill described the steps the town would need to follow in order for the garden to be approved, these included: Planning board approval, DEP notification and approval since the area borders wet lands, tapping of the water main, he stressed that all of these steps would not be difficult to accomplish.

John Eldridge asked about how this would affect existing trails?

Bill Shane showed on the map that the location would not affect existing trails. Trails would go around this location.

John Eldridge asked about soil quality in the area due to existing clay?

Jeff Porter added concerns about overflow parking of vehicles in the area during large events and how would potentially leaking vehicles affect the organic nature of the proposed garden.

Karen Marden responded that there will be extensive soil testing before planting of the garden begins. She went on to discuss the following points

- There is a great deal of interest from the community already
- Cumberland is the last community in the area to have a community garden, Yarmouth started with three members and now have over 140.
- Twin Brook meets all the criteria.
- Start with a small donation garden the first year as a test. 20'x30', So soil can be tested before it goes out to the community.

This is the proposal for the first year. There are 40 people ready to be included.

John Eldridge: How do you enclose the garden?

Karen Marden: They would use a deer fence.

(Discussion about a removal deer fence and who would be responsible.)

Kay Fowler: Discussed Deer issue around her property and that deer do exist out at her farm now.

John Leavitt: Will the fence be electrified?

Karen Marden: No.

John Leavitt.: Who pays for the fence?

Karen Marden: The organizers. We want this area to look nice and not shabby. We want it to accent the park so they will be looking into Fencing.

Jeff Porter: Fence should be underground so animals can't go under.

Karen Marden: The goal for the 1st year is to grow for donation. Give to soup kitchens and to the Cumberland Food Pantry.

Bill Shane: Asked Kay if this is going to be an issue for the Farmer's Market?

Kay Fowler: Since Yarmouth has had a big garden, there hasn't been much of an effect on the Farmer's market.

Joe Lorrington: What would be the fee for the garden?

Karen Marden: \$25 for a 10x10 plot and they must donate 'x' amount of hours to keep up with weeding.

John Eldridge: Who gets the fee for the garden?

Bill Shane: The fee will be put into a dedicated fund to support the garden infrastructure.

Jeff Porter: How do you regulate who plants what and do I get a different location every year?

Karen Marden: Yes. Everything is regulated. (At that point Karen shared Yarmouth's Rules & Regulations with the committee)

Gage Galletti: Spoke about Eagle Scouts and Donation of hours that they need to donate to get their community hours done - discussed the building of a kiosk to be used at the community garden as his Eagle Scout project donation.

Jeff Porter : Discussed the size of the garden and wanted to know if this would be big enough.

Karen Marden: Depends on volunteers and what is needed – would like to start in April or May. Start small at first.

Bill Shane: Great project. Town Council needs Committee Recommendation. The Committee should consider these points:

1. Committee supports the Project
2. Committee will receive monthly updates
3. Year 1; pilot program 2000 square foot maximum size.
4. Follow park rules – Hours of Operation.
5. All infrastructure and signage to be approved by committee.

John Eldridge: Would this require Town Site work?

Bill Shane: No. No grade change required. Use existing ground as is. Site work would be limited to rototilling if needed.

John Leavitt.: Looking for thoughts from group to support or not.

Jeff Porter: Discussed over rototilling and have something growing up the fence to hide the fence.

John Eldridge: Will there be a community water tap?

Bill Shane: Yes. Need to carry water from tap or use hose.

Karen Marden: Spoken about the possibility of having bee's at the garden for pollination and leave them for the duration. Would like to know how the community feels?

John Eldridge – There are bee's at Pineland near the trail system without issues.....

Bill Shane: Summer is good time – but spring and fall wouldn't be the best time.

Talked about bee structures and leaving in place all year long.

John Eldridge: Fabulous project. Likes the idea of mixed use at Twin Brooks.

John Leavitt: Discussion points and questions. Committee agreed to support the Project.

Bill Shane: Committee should prepare a letter outlining its recommendations to council. Chair should make presentation. It should be on the March 28th council agenda.

Bill Shane

Steve Moriarty discussed converting Twin Brook rules into an ordinance.

Why should we do this?

Is there an underlying issue that the committee is seeing with the rules?

John Eldridge wanted to make the rules enforceable rather than mere suggestions.

Steve Moriarty wanted to know if there was something that needs to be fixed.

John Eldridge: discussed horses on the trails and can't enforce this rule without making it an ordinance or banning Horses.

Pete Bingham: discussed dogs at events.

Bill Shane Council will want to know examples of issues and what we can't correct.

John Eldridge discussed that we want to ban horses from the park. We want to be able to enforce this and we can't. We want the police to have the ability to enforce the Twin Brooks rules.

Chris Bolduc. Discussed that there have been issues with horses in the past but nothing recent. Feels we should make the signage better at the park to see if that works before a total ban is instituted.

Jeff Porter said there are people that abuse the park and that needs to be addressed. People should use the park as long as they aren't abusing it. If there is a problem we need to address it!

John Eldridge: how can we more effectively enforce problematic behavior? Horseback riding? Dogs walking on groomed ski trails?

Pete Bingham: First step is awareness of Rules

Steve Moriarty: Dog issue and dogs at events should be part of mass gathering – and need to have this addressed because they arrive at Twin Brook Events

Pete Bingham: discussed other policies about dogs used by the Maine Principals Association

Bill Shane: If this continues to be a problem we should address it with the individuals. Caution: need specific examples of abuse of the rules before the council will support a ban.

John Leavitt stated he sent out a reorganized draft of the Rules and asked if everyone had looked at it. This is an overview of what John Stroud organized in the past. Language was added about horses and lightning policy.

John Eldridge thinks the document should be moved forward as written to the council.

Kay Fowler: If we go to the council with #7 regarding the horses are we going to be able to defend it?

Jeff Porter: Discussion: should we leave "No Horses" in the Policy. Keep it the way you have it, send it to the Council and see what happens. If you feel strongly about the issue, bring it forward and address it with the whole council.

Motion to send Twin Brook Rules and Regulations to the Town Council for review as written with the addition of a lightning policy and banning of Horses.

Motion: Kay Fowler.
Second: Joe Leavitt.
Vote: 5-0

Chris Bolduc – Park Infrastructure Update

- There will be a Defibrillator added to the shelter Building this spring
- An Eagle Scout will be coming to you with a Bridge project for this summer.

Pete Bingham – Recreation Update

- Working with user groups about facility schedule
- Getting hands around unauthorized users
- Talked about Park usage over the winter and how amazed and glad he is that it get's so much use.

John Leavitt - Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

Motion to Nominate: John Leavitt for Chair
John Eldridge for Vice Chair

Kay Fowler motion
Joe Loring seconded
Vote 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

Kay Fowler: Kay spoke about being approached by the school boosters because they want to put up signs on the fence around the baseball fields. She advised them that she would not be happy with putting up permanent signs during the season but would be ok with them going up only during games. She later received a letter from the school boosters thanking her for support of putting up the signs during the baseball season. She stated that she really does not want the signs up permanently and feels that it would take away from the beauty of the land. She is hoping that the committee will support her in disallowing the school boosters from doing this.

Bill Shane: It was the spirit of the original memorandum of understanding with the Fowler Family that many things would not take place on the Greely road side of twin brook so to keep the area as pristine as possible without making the area look like a stadium. But signs were not addressed in the MOU. Placing of the signs is not a violation of the Towns sign ordinance, our lease with them does not prohibit them from placing the signs and there isn't much that this group can do to disallow the placing of the signs because the Twin Brook Committee has no oversight of the Greely road side. The committee could draft a letter requesting the signs not go up.

Steve Moriarty: Made the recommendation that the committee make this year a trial season, see what the signs look like and see how it goes. If the committee doesn't like the signs then it can make a recommendation for changing them or removing them.

Bill Shane: Recommended the committee draft a letter to the school with the recommendation that this year will be a trial year with the signs.

A motion was made that a letter be drafted to the School Department with regards to the sign and the request that this be a trial year for the signs.

Motion: Kay Fowler

Second: John Eldridge

Passes: 5-0

Adjourn: 8:55pm