

Twin Brook Minutes March 18, 2014

Attendance:

Anne Witte
Shirley Story-King
Kay Fowler
Jackie Stowell
John Eldredge
Iwana Tarling
John Leavitt
Mike Edes
Laura Neleski
Christopher Bolduc

Call to Order 6:30pm

Motion to accept the minutes of January 14, 2014:

Motion made by Mr. Eldredge
Motion seconded by Ms. Stowel
Unanimous

Old Business:

- **Forestry Plan for Twin Book** – Mr. Leavitt took the group through the Forestry plan, summing up the key points of dead trees, making the trails safer, perhaps adding to the trails, creating a healthy forest and creating better habitat. A full survey of the park will need to be done and that would be the Town's responsibility. Mr. Bolduc stated that this would cost in the neighborhood of \$3500.00. There is still the educational aspect of the forestry plan to discuss and decide on. This is the aspect that would require the most planning. Ms. Witte will look into opportunities with the school but possible ideas are a program through the Rec Department, classroom activity at school, classes or sessions on site at the cutting. The town website could also be used to keep the public informed. The general process of events at this point, is for the Committee to decide if they want to go ahead with the plan and what educational opportunities they want to make the most of and then take that information and present the recommendations to the Town Council. The Council would decide whether to proceed or not. If they voted for the plan, the Committee could then proceed. But before the plan can be presented to the Council, Mr. Bolduc and Mr. Leavitt would meet and work up a timetable for when events would happen and how to get the work done in a timely and effective manner. The committee should keep in touch via email to discuss any questions or information that becomes available prior to the next meeting.
- **Dog Policy** - A proposal was put to the group was that there should be a limit to the number of dogs a single person could walk off leash at one time. The proposal states that 'a single person can have no more than two dogs off leash and under voice control at a time, with any additional dogs being kept on leash' and 'The person in charge of a dog is responsible for cleaning up waste released by the dog and will be strictly liable for any personal harm or damage caused by the

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dog. Any violation of this section could result in banishment of the dog or dogs from the Twin Brook Facility.' The intent is to promote the cleanliness of the park and give park employees and Animal Control Officers a specific ordinance to enforce.

The proposal was developed in response to the issue of cleanliness at the Park and potentially other town properties. Pet waste continues to be an issue. It was discussed that one person cannot effectively watch a large group of dogs and clean up after them as well as keep them under voice control at the same time. Although no one wants to limit the number of pets a person can bring to the park, it was discussed that it is unreasonable for a person to watch and clean up after more than two dogs running around at the same time. After more general discussion, the Twin Brook Committee voted 4 to 2 in favor of recommending the proposed changes to the Twin Brook Rules and Regulations to the Town Council.

Another proposal was made that we adjust when we switch over the Park hours slightly to correspond to the change in daylight savings time. This doesn't affect the actual park hours, just when the switch from winter hours and summer hours would happen. Mr. Leavitt suggested that the hours be switched from the current set times to 'sunrise to sunset' that is typical at many other types of parks. There was general discussion on the park hours sometimes going past dusk but that changing the current system would shorten the park hours quite a bit in the winter. The measure to adopt the proposal and also keep set hours was included in the vote of 4-2 recommending the proposed changes to the Council.

New Business

- **Storage Building** – Mr. Bolduc showed the proposed new storage building and it's proposed location at Twin Brook where it would be located behind the current maintenance building and not be very visible. The building had been briefly mentioned at a meeting last summer. The committee mentioned the worry about buildings creeping up on the property. Mr. Bolduc says that there are no plans for any future buildings at this time. Since taking over the snow making equipment and losing the small equipment storage on Drowne Road, the maintenance building has become overcrowded to the point where equipment is being stored out of doors and is deteriorating too quickly. Mr. Leavitt expressed disappointment that the committee was being presented the information after the council had already approved it. Mr. Bolduc assured the committee that they still had a say and there were still other procedures he had to follow before the building was finalized. The storage building started out with a proposed home at Town Hall and that was why the committee was not initially consulted. But that proposal was turned down and plan B was to put the building at Twin Brook since the vast majority of the items being stored were Twin Brook and Recreation equipment. A motion to support the Building was made by Mr. Eldredge to support the building with the caveat that only Twin Brook and Recreation materials be stored there. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fowler. John Leavitt abstained. All others yeah.

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- **Mowing** – Mr. Leavitt expressed concern that the High School Football Team would sometimes practice on the left hand side of the entrance to the Park on the Greely Road side. He stated that this land was not part of the school lease and the team should not practice there. Mr. Leavitt also spoke of the agreement with Mr. Bolduc to not mow as much of that area to create an edge habitat. An edge habitat and a team practice could be counter intuitive. There was a general discussion of where teams and groups could practice and was the mowing any better. Mr. Bolduc mentioned that there are more fields in West Cumberland being used which should help scheduling. He also noted that it was agreed that mowing be cut back in stages which was exactly what the park implemented last year. The park would continue with that agreement by mowing even less of that area this year. This would make this area less conducive to any team practicing there. It was noted that there is nothing in the Twin Brook Rules that prevents a team from using *any* area of the park as long as another group had not reserved that area first.
- **Signage** – Ms. Tarling mentioned that the signage in the park needs to be clearer and more prominent.
- **April Stools Day** – Discussion. It looks like there will still be snow on the ground on April 1st. Does anyone want to plan a 'clean up' day for a bit later in the spring? Check and see if that group of Dog Walkers would be interested in participating again.
- Ms. Fowler informed the group that the farm had had 3 animal die this winter and they could not bury them until spring. The carcasses were out back and some dogs had gotten into them. She assured the group she will take care of the matter when the ground thaws.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion made by Ms. Tarling

Motion seconded by Ms. Witte

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm