

TOWN OF RICHMOND
NEW HAMPSHIRE
Office of Selectmen



June 9, 2016 Meeting

Selectmen present: Carol Jameson, Kathryn McWhirk and Christin Daugherty

Parks & Recreation Commission members present:

Susan Herrington Karen Daugherty
Marcus Beauregard Blair Heise
Katlyn Macdonald

Heritage Commission members present:

Bob Weekes
Bonnie McCarthy

Conservation Commission members present:

Richard Drew
Jeff Taylor

Municipal Building Committee members present:

Kim Mattson

Also present:

Ed Atkins and Peter Mulhall

Meeting opened at 7:03pm

Daugherty explained that the Board called this meeting so that all could understand that no decision has been made at this point to create a ballfield/park in the Allen lot. There has been no appropriation made at this point and all revenue generated from the logging of the Allen lot will be deposited into the Town's general fund.

Daugherty went on to say that the Town will proceed with logging. Both J. Taylor and logger has stated that logging at this point would be considered good forestry management. No additional cost will be incurred during the logging process. Only those costs related to logging (no effort to create ballfield or park) because no decision has been made as to the direction the Town wants to pursue in the development of the lot. M. Beauregard expressed his concern with waiting. The Town will pay extra at a later date that could be done now at a possible lower rate because the equipment will already be there.

The Board explained that they will be meeting with logger on weekly basis but no date for beginning the logging has been determined.

Jeff Taylor stated the logger has completed tagging. There will be a landing, approximately 3 acres, created that could be utilized later as the "park" area. Initially Taylor believed that the

Towns intention was to create ballfield area and roads at the same time as the logging operation but that would add extra cost to the project. Taylor stated that pine will be heavily cut simply because they are ready.

The Board will contact abutter /residents/homes to advise them of the operation and ensure that a buffer is left around the perimeter.

Heise would like to add tow roads or skid trails where could be utilized later if possible. Could later become walking trails etc. Drew stated he did not believe logger would clear brush.

K. Daugherty stated that the Parks & Rec as a Commission voted to first improve Amidon Park before any additional expansion to the Allen lot.

The Board's hope is that the Committees and Commissions with interest in the Allen lot expansion will interact and work collaboratively to create and plan and present a unified project to the Board for approval. If such a plan is to be on the 2017 warrant the Board suggested that work begin now so that as much specific information can be presented to the voters so that they may make an informed decision.

Mattson stated that she had heard that the Heritage Commission presented an expansion project to the Selectmen, reference the Vets Hall area. R. Weekes stated that the Heritage Commission presented a beautification project idea, to improve the appearance of the recently logged area around the Vets Hall. Weekes went on to state that the Town has had several areas either disturbed or neglected and the Heritage Commission would begin "cleaning up" those areas, and the 4 Corners area, Vets Hall parking lot and the Telephone building were referenced. Weekes explained that the Commission has proposed a "Town Green" and stated the Commission would be happy to share the proposal with anyone interested. Heise asked if the proposed "green" Weekes expressed would compete or be same as the proposal P&R are working on and continued by asking who would be responsible for the maintenance of the new park once established. His concern was that the P&R would inherit an area that they did not create. Mattson stated that the Municipal Building Committee had ideas for Vets Hall too. The Board stated that this is why they are asking that the Commission/Committees work together. Daugherty stated that some projects may be completed by the use of fund raising revenue or use of general government funds. These would be minimal expense items that could be done relatively quickly.

Drew questioned who's leading these projects. Jameson stated that ultimately the Board of Selectmen have to approve the projects but would like input from everyone.

On a side note Taylor stated that the Conservation Commission contracted welder to create a heavy duty metal gate that will be installed at the entrance of the Bennett forest to close off road and wetlands being damaged by motor vehicles. The gate will be opened most of time but will be closed during mud season and times as determined by the Cons. Comm. Members. Taylor stated that the Selectmen Fire Department and Police Department will be given a key to the gate. Taylor stated that the Commission members are sad that this needs to be done, a lot of people use the trail and the forest, but the damage being done by the misuse of the area demands that

something be done. Taylor explained that many years ago a donation was made to the Commission for this specific use so they will use that and if additional funds are needed they will use the funds used for management of the forests. They are not requested any money from the Town.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm