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TOWN OF BURLINGTON
Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Open Space Recreation Plan Subcommittee

October 10, 2018 at 4:00 PM

Approved November 15, 2018

Members Present: Horsley Witten Project Planner Krista Moravec, Conservation Administrator John Keeley, Assistant Conservation Administrator Eileen Coleman, Planning Board Chair Jack Kelly, Senior Planner Josh Morris, Assistant Planner Liz Bonventre, Parks & Rec Program Coordinator Kelly Lehman. Not present at this meeting was Recreation Commission Chair Kristine Brown, Conservation Commission member Jennifer O' Riorden, Parks & Recreation Director Brendan Eagan, ADA Coordinator Chris Hannafin.

1. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

J. Morris moved to approve the minutes from the previous subcommittee meetings. Motion was seconded by J. Kelly and approved.

2. Feedback on Public Workshop #1 and Survey

2.a Public Survey

K. Moravec reviewed the workshop; turnout was small but there was a good discussion.

Went through the summary memo she distributed. There was a lot of talk at the Workshop about improving bike paths and sidewalks, expanding Friends groups, support for CPA and creating new or upgraded club and pool facilities.

Challenges to the bike lane issues include infrastructure, traffic, land availability. Participants saw opportunities for incremental steps.

A challenge to implementing the CPA is educating the public.

A challenge to the recreation upgrades is cost.

2.b Survey

K. Moravec led the participants through responses, some of which included:

1. How often do you visit the following areas? Many respondents not aware of Conservation Areas (CAs), some unsure of rules of CAs.
2. How would you describe the upkeep and maintenance of Burlington CAs? Again, many unaware of CAs, may be confusion about identification of some areas like the Muller Road entrance to Mary Cummings Park thought to be the Muller Road CA.
3. Feelings on invasives removal? More than half of respondents favored displacing invasives with native species.
4. What types of activities would you like to see at CAs? There was support for trails, picnic areas, cross country trails and for leaving CAs as is.
5. What are needed amenities at Burlington CAs? Trail markings, trash receptacles, parking all had high support. Others mentioned in comments included “carry in-carry out” signs for trash, signage, kiosks and benches.
6. How important is it to preserve the following? There was a lot of support for all categories, though less for places of historic value.
7. What limits your usage of Burlington CAs? Comments included missing amenities, lack of information or awareness, parking, time, ticks & mosquitoes.
8. List sites that present the biggest challenge for you. Land Locked Forest and Mill Pond cited for parking and safety issues.
9. Is there a need to preserve open space and natural areas in Burlington? Overwhelming yes response.
10. To preserve open space in Town, what actions would you take? Donating money to the Town more palatable than donating land. Condo owners have no land to donate.
11. Town actions to preserve Open Space? Zoning for Open Space received highest response.
12. How long has respondent lived in Burlington? Approx. 66% have lived here for more than 10 years,
13. How old is respondent? Broad range of ages participated.
14. Invitation to expand or comment or anything missed. Common themes included providing new facilities like golf courses, sports fields, bike and walking paths, an outdoor swimming complex, provide better information about activities, and calls to stop additional development.

The Recreation survey completed in 2017 also generated calls for connectivity and education about open spaces.

3. Review of Needs & Start Drafting Action Plan

Participants ran through Chapter 7: Needs analyzed in the 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan to assess which would be carried forward. Many will.

Resource Protection and Community Needs: Many needs to be carried forward. Connecting green space is limited by lack of space for expansion. Goals include becoming a Tree City. Measures to fulfill need for sustainability include participating in the Municipal Vulnerability program and the push to adopt CPA.

Active Recreation Needs: Many to be carried forward. K. Moravec will pull from the Recreation Survey and will pool the responses.

Passive Recreation Needs: Preserving natural areas and cross country trails identified as needs.

Accessibility Needs: K. Moravec will look at the DAC Draft Transition Plan for ADA accessibility needs. Will mention Town's commitment to Complete Streets program in fulfilling all-abilities access needs.

Additional needs: The need for additional public outreach will be carried forward.

Management Needs: This section focusses on what the relevant Departments need to do to meet objectives. K. Lehman explained what the Recreation Department has done to meet the needs identified in 2011 Plan.

K. Moravec will re-write Chapter 7: Needs and will make assumptions about Action Items.

4. Public Meeting #2

The next Public Meeting will elicit feedback on the Needs Assessment and Action Plan. We discussed where and when to host the next Public Meeting. One possibility discussed is the Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 1 at 4pm. E. Coleman offered to be present with display at Council on Aging to elicit feedback some morning in early December.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Upcoming meetings: The next meeting will be on Wednesday November 14 at 2pm.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Eileen Coleman, Conservation Department*