

South Hadley Bike-Walk Committee

Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Presented by Recreation Director Andrew Rogers

Roll Call: Committee members: Larry Dubois, Lucia Foley, Marilyn Gass, Chris Bassett.
Recreation Director Andy.

Meeting began at 7:06pm.

Minutes from 11/23/2020 approved as presented. MG/LF. 4-0.

Minutes from 1/12/2021 approved as presented. MG/LF. 4-0.

Old Business:

- AR said that the Selectboard would be doing their next round of appointments at their next meeting. He is unsure how many people have applied. The next interviews will be in June.
- AR showed some pictures of the proposed fitness loop at the new COA/Woodlawn Park. Also was the fitness equipment and some playground options. This is being funded through a combination of funds from the COA project and some grants the town has recently received. MG said this really looks like a multigenerational facility, with lots of options for people. AR noted that there are plans for benches on the pathway which is something that LF believes is very important. CB offered some insights as he lives in the neighborhood.
- The town has recently applied for a forestry program for the Ledges Golf Course and the Newton-Carver Jones conservation area behind the club. This would be for the long-term health of the forest and could have some improvements to the hiking experience at those properties. AR is hopeful that a good walking loop with parking could be a result of this.
- A new loop at Buttery Brook Park would be ideal; however, with the current economic climate, this might be a few years off due to the town's funds. It is certainly something to keep our focus on over the next few years.

New Business:

- There was discussion about some of the work that is being done to promote our various trails through Anne's maps, MG's pamphlet from Orleans, LF looking to update and combine the maps, LD updating the Google coordinates and CB being out in the trails and relaying information to Anne for improvements. The Recreation Department has been doing "trail Tuesdays" to highlight our trails and in neighboring communities. LF

mentioned that the owner of the Bynon property was letting people use his parking lot when using that trail network.

- AR said there have been numerous concerns from residents about dogs recently. Specifically, about owners not picking up the dog waste, being in parks and playgrounds where they are not allowed or being off leash where they shouldn't be. AR reviewed the town bylaws and LF suggested people be fined per the rules. It is a difficult situation as the police are not going to be out enforcing people picking up their dog waste and the animal control officer only works limited hours; however, it was suggested he make a presence at the River to Range Trail. This seems to be a problem all over right now in every community.
- The Town Report was approved by consensus for FY20.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm. LD/MG. 4-0. Next meeting scheduled for March 9, 2021 at 7pm.