

Westbrook Recreation and Conservation Commission

MINUTES

JANUARY 21, 2021

6:00 PM

ZOOM MEETING

TYPE OF MEETING	Regular
ATTENDEES	<i>Members:</i> Nate Dyer, chair; Paul Drinan, vice-chair; Matt Brunner, Secretary; Rebecca Spitella, treasurer;; Bruce Wallingford; <i>Associate members:</i> Aubrey Belanger, Kaitlyn Morse <i>Absent:</i> Warren Lain, Phil Spiller
GUESTS	Mike Tadema-Wielandt - Terradyn Consultants – Representing Chase Custom Homes for 98 East Bridge St and 511 Bridge St, Potential new Commission associate members Andrew Krantz and Amanda Lessard

Agenda topics

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO DISCUSSION	<p>WEIC Update: Warren Lain not present.</p> <p>LWCF City Forest Update: Final document being completed. LWCF plan has been accepted and emailed to Doug Beck for approval. Next steps: 1) Fed approval of LWCF plan 2) Master plan has been phased, and priorities need to be established with funding opportunities.</p> <p>Appointments for new members: New form and process to be sent out, and then forwarded to council.</p> <p>Rail Trail & Sunset Ridge: <i>Rail Trail</i> – 5 bills introduced, some statewide, some local. Mountain Division Alliance – has been reformed and getting stakeholders on board. PanAm has sold to CSX – currently trying to get foot in door.</p> <p><i>Sunset Ridge</i> on hold for now – property owners feeling overwhelmed during the Covid issue. Owners say they will buy and maintain equipment when the timing is better.</p> <p>Future: BW had questions about the timeline for the island (Sacarappa Falls), MB had questions about use of condemnation process. MB had questions about use of funds to acquire more land for conservation.</p>
----------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

FINANCIAL AND CITY REPORT

DISCUSSION	298,904 – Rebecca reports this seems to be about where Rec and Con maintains.
-------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

98 EAST BRIDGE ST OPEN SPACE PLAN

DISCUSSION	<p>3 unit subdivision</p> <p>Mike Tadema-Wielandt: Terradyn Consultants – application for Chase Custom Homes</p> <p>Former Dolly Farm Assisted Living .8 acre. Willow boundaries, lawn area, shed, small parking lot, two curb cuts. All existing buildings to be removed. 3 unit building 2 BR townhouse style. 3 car garage out back. Back door more likely main entrance. Small landscaped area on west side</p> <p>Staff: Staff is support of proposal with maybe addition of one more feature</p> <p>PD: clarity on topography in back of property Answer: Slopes 5-6 feet west to east</p> <p>BD: Clarity on patio area – Answer: will be pavers</p> <p>ND: Paver area to East Bridge from previous iteration has been removed Answer: Mailboxes have been moved – no longer needed</p> <p>Motion – ND – Approve plan as is with note that an additional amenity be added to support additional activity in open area</p> <p>All in favor</p>		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

511 BRIDGE ST OPEN SPACE PLAN

DISCUSSION	<p>Unit Subdivision 2 acres</p> <p>Formerly Rocky Hill Manor Assisted Living, Structure to be removed. Property mostly forested, sloping towards northeast and adjoining development. Three duplexes, one three unit. Tree lined drives and walks. Trying to save as many trees as possible, some in front will be removed for rain gardens, new plantings to be added. Raised planting beds (5) toward rear of property. At grade garden. Meandering path through woods connecting to both sidewalks.</p> <p>Response to staff: woodchip path stability concerns – extend paving 10 ft. Delineate at grade garden – will comply.</p> <p>MB: Provide environmentally appropriate lighting for wildlife movement through existing corridor</p> <p>Motion: PD: approve project as proposed. AB Second</p> <p>All in favor</p>		
-------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--

CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

STRATEGIC PLAN

DISCUSSION	<p>ND asks for review between now and next meeting. Rebecca – does everything still make sense to where we were last time we looked.</p> <p>HISTORY – the open space plan has been talked about for a decade, maybe more. 2008 – there was an open space plan – came to council – people thought there were encumbrances placed on their land they didn't agree with.</p> <p>Possible next steps - Bring to commission and weed through what was created. Discussion that this happened for six months, didn't work. New plan necessary or strategic plan. Strategic is priorities and short term. Open space is very complex.</p> <p>Rebecca has done a lot of work to synthesize what we have into a framework for where we need to get. ND is eager to move forward. PD Recommends special meeting and then possibly sub-committee Feb 4 special meeting 6pm to set goals and create sub committee for Strategic Plan Many thanks to Rebecca for all her work thus far.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

OPEN SPACE PLAN

DISCUSSION	Dealt with in previous agenda item, to be included for priority and steps from results of Strategic Plan.		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

Meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by Matthew Brunner 2/17/2021

Special Meeting Scheduled February 4, 2021

Next meeting February 18, 2021