

Volunteers Green, Browns Court, Round Church Green

3 Parks Improvement Committee (ARPA Funds)

Minutes from meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2024

Members Attending: Denise Barnard, Kendra Ziskie, Fran Thomas, Tess Storrs, Megan Andrews

Members Absent: Jeanne Agner, Mary Lefebvre

Guests in person:

Guests attending Virtually: Mark Fausel, Lisa Miller

Public Comment: No public comment at the beginning of the meeting but guests were invited to comment throughout the meeting.

Next Scheduled meetings:

May 13 – 6 pm- Selectboard Meeting-Summit regarding the future of Volunteers Green to discuss what improvements can be made in the flood zone.

May 23 – 7pm- Three Parks Committee- The committee will continue to work on their presentation to the Selectboard concerning improvements to Browns Court and the Round Church parks and a follow up to the Volunteers Green Summit.

AGENDA:

Selectboard Summit Meeting agenda/ideas discussion to bring up to Selectboard representatives:

The purpose of the Summit meeting is to discuss what improvements can be made to the flood zone so that we can continue providing recreational opportunities in that park. In order for our committee to continue moving forward, we are hoping that the following questions will be addressed:

Where do we put a new playground? Band Shell level or current location?

If we were to keep the playground in its current location, is there a way that it can be constructed so that flood damage to playground structures is greatly reduced (or eliminated)

Do we fix the band shell or remove it for a playground surrounded by a fence?

Do we remove the crabapple trees and replace them with some kind of small pavilion with a restroom facility?

Can anything be done to make the current restrooms more flood resilient?

as well as handicap accessible?

Can the current trail along the river bank be improved and more flood resilient?

Could a hard surface path (sure-pack or paved) be built along the outside of the grassed area of the park? A path that is friendly to strollers, bikes, wheel chairs, etc.?

Do we continue to make the fields available and playable for baseball/softball and soccer?

Do we continue to host the Farmer's Market and if so, where?

Fran will be meeting with Josh Arneson on May 3, to discuss the agenda.

Overall costing discussion/review continued and initial presentation to the Selectboard

Denise and Fran shared the following from their 6:30 public hearing at the Round Church:

They were very pleased by the interest shown by community members regarding tree and limb removal, as well as the planting of new trees.

Fran shared that tree work is scheduled for May 28, 29 and 30 of this year and the planting of new trees will be on June 3, 2024. A sycamore and a red maple will be planted at the Round Church site and a sycamore tree will be planted at Volunteers Green.

The committee discussed the format and content of our presentation to the Selectboard concerning improvements to the Round Church Green and Browns Court park.

For the Round Church Green: a brief explanation of the town owning the Green, current pictures of the park. To provide a place where people can enjoy the beauty of the Green, the committee is recommending the following:

Clean up benches and monuments

Add a bench

Add a picnic table

Plant an evergreen – this will eventually become our town's Christmas tree

Fill in sink holes

Costs for the above items will be included in the presentation.

For Browns Court Park:

Update on the parking situation at Browns Court: Josh Arneson observed that at a recent baseball game there were 20 cars present. If additional recreational opportunities are made available, a 20 car parking lot would not be sufficient. The committee is proposing a 30 car capacity lot and John Linn from Hillview Design, adjusted the map of Browns Court Park to include those additional spaces. This map will be part of our presentation.

On April 23, three members of our committee with the help of a couple of husbands and grandchildren, staked out a rough outline for pickleball and bocce courts by placing flags around the courts' perimeter. These flags will most likely be removed when the grass gets mowed. Lisa Miller offered an excellent solution – place barbed plate discs at the four corners of each court.

There was a discussion on whether or not benches needed to be placed on cement pads. We did decide that if a picnic table was installed it should be placed on a cement pad.

The format and content of our presentation is a work in progress, but here is a rough idea of what we are planning to present:

John Linn's diagram of the park

Our recommendation for:

The addition of 4 benches and a picnic table as well as four 8 ft long benches for the softball/baseball teams.

A small storage shed for pickleball/bocce equipment.

4 pickleball courts (all on a 60 by 120 ft court)

2 adjoining bocce courts (24 by 80 ft)

A handicap accessible portable restroom

Cedar trees to be planted by pickleball courts and possibly the bocce courts.

Price quotes from vendors regarding these recommendations.

Explanation of why we chose pickleball and bocce as well as other options that we explored.

Other public outreach plans discussion

NOTE: In the near future, there will be a posting on Front Porch Forum concerning interest in bocce and pickleball courts.

Updates from members on their research since the 4/18/24 meeting:

Tess reported that she received an email from Advantage Tennis saying that they would be willing to provide a quote for pickleball courts but that they needed to get in touch with their subcontractor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm