

Burlington Johnnycake Mountain Park Advisory Commission

On-Site Meeting Minutes

Johnnycake Mountain Park

August 21, 2021

• Brief History of the Commission and JMP:

Mark welcomed everyone and explained what the Commission has done to this point. He mentioned how CM have done their due diligence by meeting with different community groups to find out what the community wants at the park. CM want to devise a plan that is consistent with the beauty and unique character of the property. CM surveyed the Town as to what it wanted at the park and came up with a programming list. With today's workshop, participants will decide what goes where, how to develop the park and enhance it.

• Call to order:

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 am. Commissioners present: Tricia Twomey, Joan Mack, Robert Dunn, Elizabeth Delano, Mark Moriarty, Karen Geitz and Craig Battisto. Absent: Christie Dockman

• Brian Frost from Kent and Frost explained property considerations and the workshop process:

K/F showed sign boards with key information from the survey and types of programming the community wants at the park. Brian described the characteristics of the property and its constraints. He stated that workshop participation was not mandatory. Four tables were set up with a map and Masonite templates that were set to scale for the programming elements. Each group will have over an hour to come up with an overall plan for the park and each group will designate one person to explain the table's plan. If anyone has any questions or comments after the workshop, he/she should direct them to Tricia Twomey at Parks and Rec.

The property is a very open hillside, mostly grassland that slopes from west to east. It has a flat terrace, which is a central spine and the corral. There are not many other parts that are not sloping. Think about the impact on the property. We don't want to make flat areas or tear it apart.

The community asked for input into the design process. The survey results showed that the biggest desire for the property is hiking trails, a playground, winter slopes are perfect for sledding, snowshoeing and cross country trails and a music venue. This input from the survey was refined by the data that the CM got. There are different kinds of trails you can make: short paved route, stone dust trails, natural trails.

The Town has done a needs assessment for sports. Lacrosse is growing in popularity, but it doesn't have a home. Lacrosse has the greatest need. For fishing in the pond, a pier would be good. Also, the Town needs to decide what type of playground to install: a conventional one or a nature scape. Does it want outdoor classrooms, community gardens for residents to rent, a dog park? Rotational grazing may be a consideration to improve the soil quality and keep the

fields open. How about hay fields, wild flowers? It's necessary to create a native habitat that is sustainable or a managed landscape. What type of music venue should the park have? A structured venue, like a band shell or more of an open area type? People requested a pavilion for picnics. Does it have a rural feel? Is it built with repurposed materials from the barns? Restrooms are much better than portalets. Where are they located? Does the park have a community center for indoor events? Is it something modest that the town can manage? Is public art included at JMP? Is there a Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) program on the property to help manage the landscape? We don't want to overburden Public Works to manage the area. There are many open areas and how are the invasive species managed. Farm fencing is the signature closing element. What does the Town do about it? There is an agricultural easement to the west of the park and it is behind a single family home. It's important to keep the property more natural. Park development will cost less and it will maintain the rural character.

- **The design groups spent over an hour creating a Master Plan for the Park.**
- **Each group's designated speaker described the group's design.**
- **Next steps for the design process:**

K/F will take the ideas from today and use them to create a master plan for the park.

There will be biweekly meetings and the public is invited to attend. Tricia will put all the info up on the website. If the public has any questions, they should direct them to Tricia Twomey in Parks and Rec.

Tom Finan expressed concern about designing in an environmentally friendly way. Sustainable CT was mentioned. Everyone wants sound environmental practices.

All were impressed by the level of commitment that was shown at today's workshop.

- **The workshop meeting was adjourned at 11:33.**

Minutes are respectfully submitted by,

Karen Geitz

August 28, 2021

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