

Burlington Johnnycake Mountain Park Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2021

- **Call to order:**

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm. Commissioners present: Tricia Twomey, Joan Mack, Robert Dunn, Christie Dockman (arrived at 6:30), Karen Geitz, Craig Battisto and Mark Moriarty. Absent: Liz Delano

- **Motion to approve the August 30th meeting minutes:**

Craig made the motion, Joan seconded it and all voted in favor.

- **Talk about your favorite Beatle:**

Committee Members (CM) shared information about their favorite Beatle. The goal with this activity is for the CM to get to know each other better.

- **Mission Statement:**

Karen read the Mission Statement.

Mission Statement is to create a feasible and visionary short and long term master plan for the purchased property that provides the multi-generational community of Burlington with opportunities for active and passive recreation. Our recommendations will be based upon considerations and input from our entire community, will support documented community needs, will strive to retain the unique, farm-like character and natural landscape of the property and will be aware of the potential impact to the surrounding neighborhoods.

We endorse the following values:

- Open-mindedness
- Team unity
- Respect for one another
- Commitment to a positive outcome

Mark talked about how important it is for CM to keep this mission statement in mind as they develop the Master Plan for the park. CM need to make the plan visionary. The community has given the JMP Advisory Commission a great deal of input. It's important to retain the farm-like character and maintain the natural landscape of the property. It's the CMs' charge to deliver the Master Plan based upon the Mission Statement.

- **Public Comment:**

No public comment.

- **Public Outreach:**

No public outreach since the August 30th meeting.

- **Brief Review of Park Programming & Town-wide Survey Results:**

CM reviewed the survey results and programming needs for the Town.

- **Park Masterplan Concepts:**

Kent and Frost provided the Commission with four schematic plans for the park. CM reviewed the plans and discussed the pros and cons to each one. Frequently CM referred to the Mission Statement, programming needs and desires and survey results to inform their decisions. CM organized their ideas and priorities to send to K/F for continuation in the Master Plan development process:

Here are the comments the CM sent to K/F:

Johnnycake Mountain Park Advisory Commission- Kent & Frost Schematic Plan Comments

General Comments

1. Commission general supports Kent & Frost's Schematic Plan 1 w/ a number of revisions discussed herein or shown on the attached mark-up plan.
2. Commission **not** in favor of rotational grazing for field maintenance. We think the cons outweigh the pros.
3. Plan needs to accomplish our Mission Statement Goal of being **Visionary!**
4. Commission not in favor of a through driveway
5. We need to figure out the maintenance equipment & supplies storage requirements for the property. Coordinate with Public Works.

Upper Event Lawn

1. Want to add Farm-house looking Community Building and/or Barn like Pavilion in this area overlooking the park that will provide the property a central focal location. Like a big farm-house.... We think that having a feature like this would tie the development together & should provide the "wow" factor for the Masterplan.

Hiking Trails

1. This is the community's number one want for the property and thus needs to be addressed at a high level. The trails must be unique & signature to this property. We suggest the following:
 - Take the Tour of the Trails w/ Karen & possibly some other Commission members if they're available.
 - Incorporate trails through the open field areas of the park. These are different than the dozens and dozens of miles of wooded hiking and biking trails in Burlington. Because they are open they feel safer & are appealing to a wider

range of people. Trails here also offer many different perspective views of the park and the natural & historic elements the trails travel through.

- Add two benches at the Ledges – one facing the sunset & one the facing sunrise.
 - Add a few park lets & outdoor classrooms at appropriate locations along the trail.
 - Incorporate signature signs that describe various natural, wild life and historic elements along the trails.
 - Aesthetic bridges
2. ADA accessibility needed from main parking area to Lacrosse field, playground, pavilion, community building

Driveway

1. Commission not in favor of a through driveway.
2. Move main entrance drive on Johnnycake Mtn Road away from residential property where existing entrance is & add vegetative screening between the driveway & this house. Be careful revised driveway alignment doesn't negatively impact other properties.
3. Gravel driveways for cost reasons, maybe we'll use millings.

Parking

1. Add a smaller parking lot at the Barn A location (8 to 10 spots). Provides close access to the pond & hiking trails.
2. Reduce size of the main parking lot. Suggest dropping from 100 to 60 spots.
3. Add a smaller parking lot that can be accessed from Rock Road near the Lacrosse Field. Will provide closer access to the dog park (guessing 25 parking spaces for this lot).
4. Add 2 or 3 roadside parking spaces on the park side of Johnnycake Mtn Road near the ledges.
5. Add 2 or 3 roadside parking spaces on Mountain Top Pass near the pond.

Pedestrian Access

1. ADA accessibility needed from main parking area to Lacrosse field, playground, pavilion, community building
2. Need to make sure people can easily and safely walk around the property once they parked

Dog Park

1. Commission generally likes this location & this use ranked very high in both resident surveys so it's very important that we address this programming piece adequately
2. Need design guidelines and considerations, aesthetics, layout, fencing type...
3. Considering a temporary dog park if this is feasible. Some residents concerned about noise.

Lacrosse Field

1. In agreement with the location shown

Multi-Purpose Area (see mark-up on plan)

1. This would be a flat graded area near the Lacrosse Field that could be used from anything from park events, passive recreation like frisbee, to warming up for Lacrosse, or as a practice field. It's a grassed area that's graded flat enough to serve multi-purposes.
2. Locate this behind the small parking lot off of Rock Road to have less impact on the Park's Rock Road frontage.
3. The grading for this lot need to tie into the existing topography in a way that looks natural. Not just catching up to existing grades with steep side slopes or retaining walls.

Community Gardens

1. In agreement with the location shown but can be flexible if needs to move.

Farm Animals On Site

1. We like the idea of the town working with a local farmer and having a few horses on the field at the south-west corner of the property by the intersection of Johnnycake Mtn Road and Mountain Top Pass. Obviously there are a lot of details associated with doing this and this would require a partnership agreement with the town.

These comments were written by Mark Moriarty, Chairperson.

- **Upcoming Meetings and Schedule:**

The CM will send their comments to K/F and then both groups will decide upon an upcoming meeting date after K/F has had time to review the comments.

- **Other business:**

K/F sent the Town its first billing invoice (#1345) for services and the CM reviewed it.

Motion: To approve the first billing invoice (#1345) of \$9,000 for payment to Kent + Frost. (C. Dockman/ J. Mack) Mark, Robert, Joan, Christie, Karen, and Tricia approved the motion. Craig, abstained. Liz was absent.

- **Meeting adjourned at 8:10:**

Craig made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Robert seconded it and all voted in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Karen Geitz

Mark Moriarty

September 11, 2021