

Whately Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 9th, 2020

Meeting Commenced 6:04 PM

Location:

Town Offices

4 Sandy Lane

E. Whately, MA 01373

1. In attendance: Shelley Yagodzinski, Tom Sadoski, Carol Hutkoski, Justin Davis, Christina Williams, Montserrat Archbald, Scott Jackson, Wayne Hutkoski
2. J Davis commenced meeting by introducing M Archibald and S Jackson. J Davis also informed meeting attendees that the order of the meeting would change due some 250th Anniversary, Family Day being tabled for now.
3. Montserrat Archbald from the Conservation Commission and Scott Jackson representing Kestrel Land Trust presented the Center Woods Project outlining an area of land that sits between Westbrook Rd., Chestnut Plain Rd. and Haydenville Rd. behind the outlining residential area. Handouts were provided (exhibit A). The project was explained as an outdoor trail area for residents, with adjacent parking for anywhere from 3 to 6 vehicles. It was stated that the property would be maintained by Kestrel and volunteers from the community. J Davis from the Rec Commission asked if there would be opportunity to put workout stations with natural features on the property, if there were any concerns for foot traffic and if bikes were allowed. M Archbald stated that bike traffic would cause the trail surface to erode differently that foot traffic. S Jackson stated that workout stations could be a possibility for this type of trail. Questions were asked by T Saadoski about the financial obligations from the town. M Archbald stated that the CPC would spend 60,000.00 to pay for a portion of the land and 5,000.00 to contribute to surveying. It was also mentioned that the Snowmobile Club has endorsed this project and donated some funds.
 - a. Montserrat was asking for the Rec Committee's support for the Whately Center Woods Project. The Rec Commission unanimously supported this project that will come up for a town vote.
4. Susan Baron, 250 Anniversary – Family Day at Herlihy, *this conversation is tabled until the next meeting
 - a. Kickball, whiffle ball
 - b. Face paint, balloon animals
 - c. Tethered balloon rides

- d. Boat launch
 - e. Kayak races
 - f. One bounce house
 - g. Rock N Roll racing?
5. It was mentioned that there has been roughly 2,700.00 raised for Whately Rec
- a. These donations to rec were in honor of George Kane
6. Baseball – This year there will not be enough players for a 3rd/4th grade team. There were 14-15 players at the 1st/2nd grade level.
- a. Coaches - Christina Williams will be the Head Coach, Mickey McNutt will Assist and Ryan Bailey will assist if Brody Baily makes the 1st and 2nd grade team. Justin Davis will coach the Pre K/K team with the help of Jason Viadero.
 - b. Assessment - It was determined that there will be an assessment as one player from the K – level would like to move up. There will be an opportunity for all K – level players to tryout for the 1st/2nd grade team.
 - c. J Davis will send Christina Rosters, Email Meghan Ashman about Braden moving to 1st/2nd, Assistant Coach information and equipment information.
 - d. Opening Day will be in Hatfield this year.
7. Basketball Update, Banquet – The banquet is scheduled for Mach 16th at 530PM. A message has been distributed to the Coaches from Rec outlining the details. It was mentioned that we will need roughly 7 party size pizzas.
8. Frontier Track *tabled
9. Ice Skating Area outside of Whately FD
- a. Tear down – Wayne H joined the meeting late and agreed to tear down the ice rink.
10. Recreation goals for Community Preservation *this information was mentioned at the meeting as a topic of interest that will stay on the agenda indefinitely
- a. Multi-purpose trail network?
 - b. Doc at Herlihy?
11. Fence for baseball fields
- a. Assemble – it was mentioned that the softball field still needs to be surveyed to layout the fence and reposition the soccer field. It was also mentioned that they will layout the soccer fields in the softball outfield.
12. Next Meeting Monday, April 6th, 2020
13. Meeting Adjourned 7:52pm

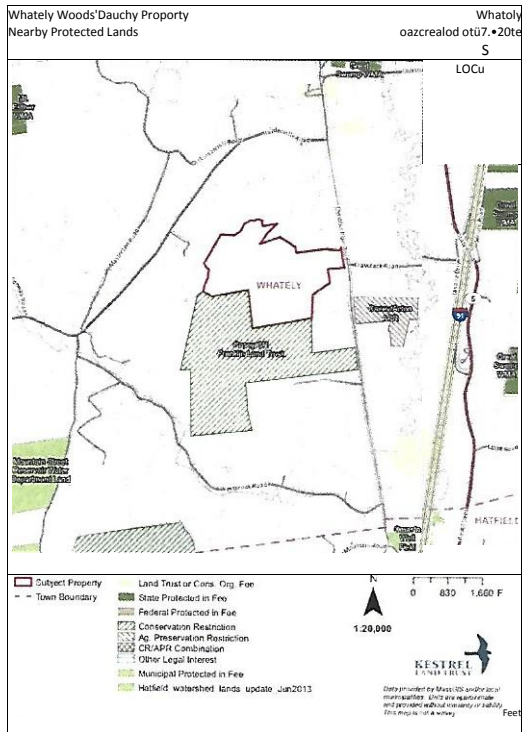
Whately Center Woods Project

Whately residents are working with the Kestrel Trust to protect 120 acres of forest land. The land lies between Haydenville Road, Chestnut Plain Road, and Westbrook Road, and is adjacent to the Casey property, which was already protected in partnership with town residents, the landowner, and Franklin Land Trust. Together, these two properties will create a large block of protected wooded habitat.

The goals of this project are to:

1. Protect 120 acres of highly valuable forest habitat and allow it to continue to sequester and store carbon, becoming an old growth reserve benefitting plants, wildlife, and local residents;
2. Ensure that an informal recreational amenity enjoyed by local residents and neighbors is not lost should a less accommodating person take ownership of the land; and
3. Provide access for local residents via a small parking area and a maintained loop trail that will be completely contained within the property boundaries. Most other conservation land in Whately lacks parking, making it inaccessible to town residents who don't live within walking distance.





Funding needs:

Partial funding for this project has been secured from a state grant. The landowner has generously agreed to accept a reduced price for the property. Community Preservation Act funding has been requested from the town; if recommended by Whately's Community Preservation Committee, this support will need to be approved at Town Meeting.

If these requests are successful, a funding gap of approximately \$60,000 will remain. Kestrel has approached a private foundation that supports old-growth reserves, and we are asking residents, neighbors, and supporters to pledge to fill this gap.