

MINUTES OF MEETING – COMMUNITY MEETING #1

Preliminary Feasibility Analysis & Design Services for Gerow Recreation Area
Warner's Pond – Concord, MA
MAX-2018082.00

MEETING DATE: August 28, 2018

LOCATION: Gerow Property

ATTENDEES: Kate Hodges Concord – Assistant Town Manager
Kate Hanley Concord – Director of Sustainability
Ryan Orr Concord – Director of Facilities
Ryan Kane Concord – Recreation Director
Ron Headrick GPI – Project Manager
Bob White GPI – Landscape Architect
Bonnie Ewing GPI – Landscape Designer
Kristen Sebasky ESS – Environmental Subconsultant
Others Included town staff, boards members, and residents

PURPOSE: First Public Meeting

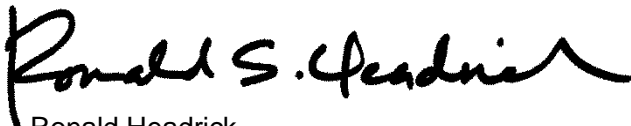
Discussion:

1. A tent and chairs were provided by the Rec Department adjacent to the former Gerow house with a spectacular view of Warner's Pond. GPI displayed plans showing a site analysis, a preliminary concept, and inspirational images.
2. The meeting was convened a little after 5:30 pm - Kate Hodges gave a quick welcome and introduction to the project team. Ron Headrick explained that the evening would include an informative site walk followed by a quick presentation and a discussion period.
3. GPI lead a site walk that started out by Commonwealth Avenue and made its way throughout the site, touching on over a dozen topics including access, invasive species, open space and views, the pond edge, an old road bed, parking, bike connections to the BFRT, rest rooms, accessibility, water access, an old gravel pit, a drain pipe, and trails. Kristen Sebasky from ESS explained the pond dredging plan her firm is working on for Warner's Pond.
4. Following the site walk, Ron Headrick presented a preliminary concept plan that illustrates how the park design can build upon the site features and constraints. Key components of the plan include preservation of the open field area (currently occupied by the Gerow House), a boardwalk along the pond edge, accessible grades, parking, and water access. Although a beach is included in the plan, the town is currently thinking that this will be for boating only, not swimming.
5. A series of question/comments were received from the public, which included the following:
 - a. A majority of attendees (by a show of hands) would like to see swimming at the Warner's Pond.
 - b. The inclusion of a playground was noted as an essential component of the design.

- c. A member of the Concord Dog Committee mentioned that they would like to see an area for dogs if possible.
 - d. A young member of the audience liked a picture of a water slide and would like to see that if swimming is provided.
 - e. There needs to be some type of management to keep trail users from parking in the park all day.
 - f. Will the design consider winter use?
 - g. Parking should be a balance (not too little, not too much).
 - h. A question was asked about pond dredging. How much and how long will it last.
 - i. If no swimming, would there be a nature preserve element?
6. In Closing, Kate Hodges and Ron Headrick noted several points:
- a. Based on projected costs, the project will have to be phased.
 - b. The project will likely begin at the road and work its way inward.
7. The meeting ended around 7:45pm.

These minutes constitute our understanding of the discussions and conclusions reached. Please advise us within ten (10) days, in writing, of any exceptions or corrections.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Headrick
Project Manager

cc: attendees