

Minutes of the Meeting of The Open Space and Recreation Committee

February 11, 2015 at 6:30pm

Town Hall Conference Room

Attendees: Dennis Visconti, Stephen Sylvester, Stephen G. McDonough, James Sarno, Joanne St. Pierre, Julie Boussy, Aldo Ursino, Maura Hayes Campbell

Absent: Therese DiBlasi, John Bracciotti, William Previdi

Guests: Thomas Boussy & AnnMarie O'Neill, Selectman

1) Call to order 6:34pm, motion to accept minutes from the January meeting, unanimously accepted.

2) Thomas Boussy, Selectman, made a presentation on the Weiss Farm - Stoneham Oaks Land Swap.

He went into detail about what the requirements are in order for the Town to do a Land Swap with Corcoran Company for the Weiss Farm land with a portion of the Stoneham Oaks. Beyond getting an approval at Town Meeting, it is also necessary to go to the National Park Service for approval and a development Plan needs to be submitted to the State. The Town would need to prove that the swap would be beneficial and it would be the highest and best use of the property as open space for the Town of Stoneham. The land would also need to be appraised for value.

Corcoran Companies have approached National Development to obtain a means of egress for the development out through Unicorn Park. This would mean that it would not affect the property alongside the Stoneham Arena.

The proposed Swap would give the Town the Weiss Farm land across the street from Stoneham HS, allowing the Town to use this land for Open Space and Recreation. This would be the only use for this land.

Tax wise this could bring in 350-400k per year to the Town from the Corcoran Company.

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3) The New Town Planner is working on a Recreation Plan for the Town. She will presenting to our next meeting in March.

4) Big Belly's, Dennis sent a letter to TA Ragucci letting him know that we are interested in obtaining Big Belly compactors in our Recreation Areas. We were told that it is necessary for the Town to obtain a Green Communities Designation. These units cost about \$16,000.00 and there is a monthly fee. These units are Solar and only have to be emptied every 4 days verses everyday with the regular barrels. The State will pay for the Big Belly's once we obtain the designation. The Town Planner is working on this. Perhaps we will get an update in March.

5) We presented a letter to TA Ragucci and the Selectman stating that the OSP Committee recommend that we put out a new RFP. for the Unicorn and Stoneham Oaks GC. We need to prepare this RFP, but it is still not clear whether the Stoneham Oaks will be a part of this new RFP. Dennis is going to talk to TA Ragucci to what option he thinks is best.

Suggest a letter to TA Ragucci that states OSR is in favor of a creating a New RFP that leases 100% of Unicorn Golf Course for a rental fee to be determined. We recommend that the Stoneham Oaks be an option in which ever RFP is decided on.

We should invite TA Ragucci to the next Golf Course Subcommittee Meeting.

New RFP needs to be prepared and complete by June 30, 2015 for Town Counsel William Solomon to review.

6) Write a letter to TA Ragucci that the 2nd Ice Committee present their recommendations to O S & R Committee as a subcommittee. Also Dennis will speak to TA Ragucci to clarify the relationship between the 2nd Ice Committee and O S &R.

7) Discuss contacting Jeanne Craigie and the School Committee about the usage of land in front of Middle School.

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