

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
May 3, 2017, Wednesday**

Present: Jane Hackett, Chairman
Michael Molisse, Vice Chairman
Michael Smart, Councilor
Arthur Mathews, Councilor

Absent: Thomas J. Lacey, Councilor

Also Present: Brian Connolly, Chief Financial Officer
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Nicholas Bulens, Administrative Services Coordinator
Steve Reilly, Director, Parks & Recreation

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman Hackett called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

17 021-Dedication of Land for Park and Recreation Purposes for Improvements to the Town Landfill through the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on April 3, 2017. Nick Bulens presented the measure. The funds for this are a result of a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant that requires any land benefitting from the grant must be permanently dedicated to recreational use. The \$175,000 grant was received in 2015 to renovate the old landfill site into a passive park. The park is scheduled to open by June of this year, and will be named Osprey Overlook Park. It is part of the Back River Trail. The grant has been matched by \$350,000 in CPC funds appropriated in November 2015. The total project cost is \$435,010.

Mr. Bulens reviewed the scope of the project in a power point presentation for the committee. The landfill had an existing trail around it that was approved by the DEP when the landfill was closed. This project will restore that trail and create an overlook on the top of the landfill to look out over the Back River and the osprey nest area. There will be seating and interpretive panels installed. It will be paved up to the overlook so it will be completely accessible and have newly paved access directly into Great Esker Park.

Signage will be installed along with gateways to prevent driving on to it. The original proposal called for chain link fencing around the dog shelter, but some design changes have been made specifically around the dog shelter. There won't be fencing, but instead additional parking will be added and landscaping for a more natural area. The crematorium has been demolished and that area will be restored to natural open space as well.

Under the grant, anything that is touched with this is covered under the Massachusetts constitution. The land contains non-park structures; once it becomes protected the state has a say in what is done with it. By taking the non-park structures out of the equation the town can retain maximum control over it. In 2013 the Town Council passed a resolution which dedicated a portion of the landfill already through a subdivision. This request seeks to expand the subdivision to add an additional parkland. That land is a little under three acres. The grading around the area was too steep for ADA accessibility so the focus is on the paved trail going up to the overlook. The location of the parking lot has been moved closer to that area as well so they can encompass more of the project in order to maximize reimbursement from the grant. Mr. Bulens reviewed the map for the benefit of the committee, he noted that the state has already approved the plan.

Chairman Hackett asked about the overall timetable. Mr. Bulens responded that it was awarded in mid FY16, but all construction has to be completed by June 30, 2017. Grant paperwork needs to be submitted on June 1, 2017. Councilor Mathews asked if a public hearing is required. Mr. Bulens responded no.

Chairman Hackett stated that she will report out for action at the May 15, 2017 Town Council meeting.

A motion was made by Councilor Smart to forward measure 17 021 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Vice Chairman Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:10 PM, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Molisse to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Jane Hackett as Chair of Public Parks and Recreation

Approved unanimously on 5 September 2017