

**Kingston, New Hampshire  
Fairgrounds Use Study Committee  
Meeting of 30 Mar 2024  
FINAL MINUTES - CORRECTED**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p by Laurie Szwed

**PRESENT:** Fire Chief, Graham Pellerin; Select Board Rep, Laurie Szwed;  
Conservation Committee Chair, Evy Nathan; Folly Brook Neighborhood Liaison Glen  
Milhomme; Stacy Gray

**ABSENT:** DPW Director, Phil Coombs; Linda Corson

**DISCUSSION:**

Selectwoman Szwed opened the meeting reminding attendees that this was a working group to finish the slides and that public comment would be held at the end.

Chief Pellerin and Selectwoman Szwed went through the slide show. Concerns from previous were added along with comments addressing those concerns. New information includes:

1. Possibly eliciting help from the Budget Committee
2. Setting the date for a Public Hearing; no further study group meetings need to occur. The Select Board will decide the Public Hearing date.
3. Evy Nathan provided the following items:
  - a. The Trails Committee could formalize the existing trail system which allows for a more natural space. This was met with approval.
  - b. Could market the space as Eco-Friendly.
  - c. Determine the need/feasibility of cameras in the parking area during events. It was discussed during the last meeting that if an event went into the evening/night hours, the event sponsor would provide lighting if needed.
4. Discussed that the entire initiative is on a trial basis.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Residents of the Folly Brook community were present. Most comments were repeats of the previous meeting. Items below are new questions/comments/concerns:

1. Use of Comeau field for parking.
  - a. Selectwoman Szwed will find out who is authorized to use the field, meaning who has submitted a formal request for use. Any other use will not be considered when determining the impact of using the field for parking.
  - b. Concerns of contamination from leaking gas/oil/bodily fluids to the community well which is right across the street from the gate.

- i. Chief Pellerin commented that the water has been tested on the Plains for PFAS and noted that no carcinogens (oil/gas) were detected that would cause concern. The number of vehicles that have and continue to park on the Plains is innumerable higher than the expected amount parking on Comeau Field.
  - ii. Evy Nathan volunteered to find out more information on the impact on the community well of parking on the field.
- 2. A resident expressed concern about endangered species that would be impacted, specifically turtles.
  - a. Evy Nathan suggested that the turtles are more likely to be using other parts of the property near Webster, which are sandier and more open, for nesting. Caution signs are posted.
- 3. A resident expressed concern over the clause in the Noise Ordinance that allows for exemptions and wanted assurance that the exemptions would not be granted.
  - a. Selectwoman Szwed stated that no such assurance could be given.
- 4. Suggestion that less than 1.3 acres are cleared to start and then clear more as determined by need.
- 5. A resident cited Article 201: Aquifer Protection in that no dumping is allowed. Discussion ensued with concerns.
  - a. If the initiative is not approved, will the Public Work stockpiles of material be removed? No
  - b. Will the old playground equipment be removed? Yes
  - c. It was mentioned that there is dumping occurring by Public Works near the dog park that included mattresses along with tree stumps, brush.
    - i. Selectwoman Szwed said tree stumps and brush are authorized and that she will meet with DPW to determine who is responsible for the mattresses. She stated that she was confident that it was not Public Works.
- 6. Chief Pellerin reiterated that the Town could sell the land which is zoned for Commercial use and that by preemptively repurposing the land now is in the best interest of the neighborhood and the town.
  - a. Selectwoman Szwed stressed that there are NO discussions of selling the land and that she requested participants to NOT post that rumor on FB.
- 7. A question regarding limiting the number of events per year was raised.
  - a. Selectwoman Szwed replied that could be requested of the Select Board during the Public Hearing.

## CLOSING COMMENTS:

Next meeting is a Public Hearing that will be noticed on the Town's Website as well as the official FB page.

Next Meeting: Public Meeting TBD by Select Board

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50p