

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, March 29, 2016 – 6:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Barbara Miller, Tyler Ward

Also Present: Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay, Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla
Sylvia Benedito, Terry Reeves, Maude Odgers, Robert Wood, Dick Estes, Sue Chollet, Francie VonMertens,
Heather Petersen,

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Sylvia Benedito: Riverwalk Park Project – landscape design public input

Chair Miller gave a brief background behind the landscape design history and how she was selected.

Mr. Bartlett gave a description of aspects to the project that will be incorporated into the design process. The point of the meeting was to collect information from the public to incorporate these proposals into the actual landscape design. The project will be bid this summer and 90% of the construction will be completed during the summer. The final landscape design will be incorporated into the fall, with plantings into the spring of 2017.

Francie Von Mertens asked how the word got out with regard to announcing this meeting to the public. Mr. Bartlett explained that flyers were handed out, private invitations were sent, was listed on the front page of the website. Mr. Ward added that it was announced on social media as well.

Ms. Von Mertens asked if it would be helpful to talk about the budget? Mr. Bartlett responded that the budget has not changed; and that gifts and donations would be accepted, but no other town funds.

Ms. Benedito began by giving a history of herself with regard to urban landscape design, with an office in Germany, experience working in New York, and involved with the famous Highline in that city. She continued by explaining that she was a fellow at the MacDowell colony last year. Her project design attempted to solidify the connection with the river environment as well as civic use, and integrating the civic consciousness with the natural landscape. Three design tactics included re-enhancing the river, by thickening up the edge due to erosion but also for sound mitigation reasons, with evergreens for edge reforestation. The second design tactic was to inhabit the terrace, making it more comfortable, with microclimatic mitigation strategies including windbreaks as planted mounds, creating coves, as well as heated stone benches. The mounds would protect the parking lot visually, as well as from headlights. Third is traversing the Nubanusit Skyline promenade by inserting retaining walls. The challenge was accessibility of the promenade. Additionally, stone elements would be included to incorporate the old stone elements to exist in harmony with new construction. Also a kayaking launch platform could be incorporated at the confluence. In addition, a dog run was thought to be included in the project, surrounded by native species of plants and shrubs. An art installation was proposed by Ellen Driscoll, using stone as a strong element of the design of the art installation, using chemical inscription for marking the stone.

Ms. Chollet expressed that she is in agreement with what was presented, including the nature incorporation, but what seems contra-nature would be the dog park due to adverse sounds, thus affecting the relaxing atmosphere that seemed to be the goal. Also the fire pit would invite trash being generated and seemed counterintuitive. Ms. Benedito explained that in New York, the dog parks being included creates a place for children to watch the activity. It was expressed that most of the noise would be from the traffic across the river on Granite Street.

Terry Reeves also is concerned about the dog park, with regard to maintenance. Ms. Reeves also agreed the fire pit could be a management issue; how does one make sure that it stays beautiful and a serene setting? Ms. Benedito explained that she envisioned this park being used at night, therefore the fire pit was included.

Dick Estes suggested the GAR Hall area could be used as a park, for cooking, etc. Maude Odgers explained that vandalism is a constant problem, and the parks committee works very hard to keep furnishings like the Adirondack chairs repaired, because if a space is beautiful, it's easier to keep it respected as such. The fire pit could be problematic.

Heather Petersen, expressed that she was conversing with merchants in Depot square, explaining they liked the fireworks in that area, the stores able to stay open late, with people attending the fireworks and asked of the parking lot would be open enough to appreciate bringing back the fireworks in that area. Ms. Benedito responded that it should be open enough.

Dick Estes reminded everyone of global warming and the importance of shade over the river, for protection of fish and wildlife and hopes that the town will take this into consideration by creating more green space. Ms. Von Mertens added that a strip of trees will be lost to addition of the parking lot, so some green space will be lost that needs to be considered.

Robert Wood, involved in the protection of water resources, expressed that had seen states not follow their own regulation in this regard. He advocated minimizing the impact on water resources.

Ms. Chollet rhetorically asked if we would try to stay away from asphalt as a material for the parking lot. Mr. Ward asked if Ms. Benedito had ever used the heated bench/geothermal concept in their design process. Ms. Benedito explained that she had used this example, with Transolar, in Venice, as it has been applied in other contexts. Chair Miller explained that we had looked at using solar for the bridge. Chair Miller continued by asking about hydro power as a source for the heated benches. Ms. Benedito responded that hydropower could be used since the river is right there.

Ms. Von Mertens expressed that integrating this new area with Depot Square Park would need to be in agreement with the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Bartlett said the next steps are working through these concepts toward implementation.

MTAG Program Grant

Motion:

Chair Miller made a motion to accept Mr. Bartlett, Town Administrator, to sign on behalf of the Town to secure the MTAG Program grant (Municipal Technical Assistance Grant) and sign all paperwork pertaining to the grant.

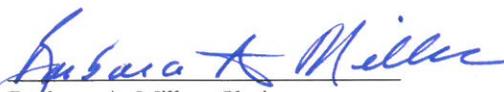
Vote:

Mr. Ward seconded. Motion approved.

As there was no more business to discuss, Chair Miller made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 pm. Mr. Ward seconded; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Department Assistant

PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:


Barbara A. Miller, Chair

Ed Juengst



Tyler Ward

ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST

1.

