

# Hope Davey & Ice Center Area Parks Study Steering Committee Special Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 2022

SAL Room at the Waterbury Public Library, 28 N. Main St., and via Zoom

## Present:

Steering Committee: Steve Lotspeich (Planning and Zoning Director) Chair, Dave Frothingham (Center Chains Disc Golf), Alyssa Johnson (Select Board), Keith Macchione (WATA), Phoebe Pelkey (Recreation Committee), Tami Bass (Skate Park), Alexandra Thomsen (Capital Soccer), Jonathan Siegel (Ice Center)

Consultant team: Elena Juosius (SE Group), Patrick Olstad (SE Group)

Public: Tom Scribner, Meg Baldor (Recreation Committee), Jane Brown (Recreation Committee), Greg Dirmaier, Suzanne Dirmaier, Logan Shuman (WATA), Joan Beard (Conservation Commission), Billy Vigdor (Conservation Commission), , Linda Gilpin (Conservation Commission),

The meeting was convened at approximately 5:10 pm in person and via Zoom.

## Public comment

T. Scribner raised the topic of conflict of interest for Steering Committee members, and there was discussion regarding the topic. T. Scribner made a formal request to present about the Wood Turtle at the next Steering Committee meeting. It was noted that, at a minimum, future Steering Committee agendas are posted [on the municipal website](#) at least 48 hours ahead of time.

There were several comments for SE Group regarding the map for Hope Davey Park in the Visioning Framework, including regarding the legend and clarification of basket and frisbee holes. There was discussion regarding class II wetland delineation. There was discussion regarding line weighting on the parcel map which would be adjusted so that no specific parcels appeared outlined. There was a question regarding the tree symbols that may be showing large/significant trees in open areas. The consultant will follow up on the comments.

## Review minutes of the last two meetings

A motion to approve the minutes from the 7/13/22 and 8/26/22 Steering Committee meetings was made by D. Frothingham. The motion was seconded by K. Macchione and passed unanimously.

## Discuss Open House and Survey Visioning Engagement Results

The group discussed the compiled [Open House and Survey Visioning Engagement Results](#) document prepared by SE Group based on the compiled results of the Open House and in-person survey, and on-line survey.

There was discussion regarding the way that online survey responses were considered complete or incomplete. All submissions were included in the survey results. It was noted that there was not a question pertaining specifically to town residency, but that there was a question regarding how close to the parks the participant lives, which could be used as a partial proxy.

There was discussion regarding some of the comments regarding connecting to other neighborhood trails in the vicinity of Hope Davey Park. It was noted by neighbors of Hope Davey Park and those who live nearby that some of the neighborhood trails could be connected to the park on the east end near Thatcher Brook. It was noted that private property owner permissions would be required and there would need to be coordination to make sure that anticipated users would be respectful of the private property.

### **Discuss Visioning Framework**

The group discussed the [draft Visioning Framework](#) for each of the parks. It was noted that the additional time should be provided for additional feedback.

SE Group noted that the Visioning Framework includes a purpose and need statement for each park, which is most common for transportation projects, and can help bring clarity to the purpose of the project. SE Group staff reviewed the concepts for each of the parks.

For Hope Davey Park, it was noted that the purposed statement includes both residents and other visitors, as both are currently being drawn to utilize the sites, and should be considered in long-term park management.

Some comments were made on a variety of topics. Comments included discussion of the recently completed archeological studies. There was support for additional time to review the frameworks. There was discussion of the lack of following of some of the current park rules, and ways to potentially incorporate a social behavior management aspect. There was further discussion of carrying capacity of Hope Davey Park in terms of the disc golf course and interest in balancing passive and active recreation, and the stewardship of natural resources. There was additional discussion about trail connectivity opportunities and challenges. It was noted that overall trail construction and expansion of a trail system to include areas beyond the park borders is beyond the scope of this particular study and management plan.

For the Ice Center Area, some SC members voiced strong support regarding the need to relocate the entrance / access road on the property. It was noted that some of the improvements, specifically the skate park and Capitol Soccer fields, would be privately funded. The importance of ADA accessibility was highlighted.

**Discuss development of draft preliminary concepts for the two park areas**

SE Group noted that two concepts would be prepared for each park. Steering committee members should send input on the visioning framework to Steve by 10/28, who can then consolidate the comments and send to the consultants.

**Schedule next Steering Committee meeting**

It will take 4-6 weeks for the consultants to put together the park concepts. A Doodle poll will be used to schedule the next Steering Committee meeting at that point, likely for some time in early December.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Johnson, Acting Secretary

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