

**WATERBURY PARKS STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**Unapproved Minutes**  
**Wednesday, December 14, 2022**

**Waterbury Parks Steering Committee Members (or Substitutes)**

Alyssa Johnson – Waterbury Selectboard  
Tami Bass - Skate Park Coalition  
David Frothingham – Center Chains Disc Golf  
Steve Lotspeich – Waterbury Planning Department  
Alex Thomsen – Capital Soccer  
Dan Potter – Public At Large  
Keith Macchione – Waterbury Area Trails Alliance  
Lawrence “Lefty” Sayah - Edward Farrar Utility District

**SE Group Consultants:**

Patrick Olstad  
Elena Juodisius

**Public:**

Kiley Briggs  
Wyatt O’Brien  
Jake Ferreira  
Eric Lustgarten  
Mark Stirewalt  
Meg Baldor  
Tom Scribner  
Mike Rossi  
Skip Landers  
Bill Shepeluk  
Billy Vigdor  
Natalie Sherman

**CALL TO ORDER**

Steve Lotspeich opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. at the Steele Community Room, 28 N. Main St. and via Zoom.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Members of the Steering Committee and the public introduced themselves.

**AGENDA REVIEW AND MODIFICATIONS**

There were no modifications to the agenda, and it was noted that the project schedule will be discussed under the agenda item relating to the next steering committee meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tom Scribner noted that there appears to be a distinction in the responses to the survey between attendees of the open house and the online survey. It is unclear to Tom whether respondents to the

online survey are Waterbury tax payers. Tom also pointed out that the development of the Hope Davey Park was paid for by a grant that staved off potential development. He provided minutes of past Selectboard meetings that stated there would be no impact to the walking trails from the disc golf development. Lastly, he stated that this impact has been ongoing for 20+ years and that we have a golden opportunity to fix the issues and not be back dealing with them again in another 5-10 years.

Meg Baldor stated that she is concerned that the preliminary concepts may not mirror the reality of fitting disc golf with walking trails and wetlands and that you can't just take into account where baskets are, you have to take into account the entire throwing area.

### **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF WOOD TURTLES**

Tom Scribner, a neighbor to the Hope Davey Park, had requested time on the agenda to discuss Wood Turtles at the Hope Davey Park. He invited Kiley Briggs, the Director of Conservation for the Orianne Society, to present. Kiley stated that while he cannot speak specifically to the Thatcher Brook area, he can speak generally about Wood Turtles and management guidelines. His presentation included the following themes:

- Do know that there are Wood Turtles in the Thatcher Brook area
- Overview of wood turtles including threats and management guidelines
- Human recreation can coexist with Wood Turtles as long as certain best management practices are followed, e.g. minimizing foot traffic in sensitive areas, avoiding activity during nesting periods, etc.

### **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLANS**

Patrick Olstad started by presenting the preliminary concept plan for the Hope Davey Park. The draft concepts include re-establishment of a nature trail, shifting of some disc golf tees and baskets to remove them from riparian areas and wetlands, establishment of ADA compliant access to the park amenities, as well as screening/fencing between neighboring uses. The group further discussed how to create a more delineated path for disc golfers, limiting disturbance when relocating baskets and tees, potential negative impacts of moving the porta-potty, the value of the Thatcher Brook floodplain, equestrian access to the park, the appropriate set-back for baskets and tees from property lines, and concerns regarding the nature path crossing the disc golf path of play.

Patrick Olstad then presented the four draft concepts for the Ice Center area and walked through the pros and cons of each proposal. There seemed to be consensus among the group that co-location of the pump track and skate park would be preferred. The group also discussed the need to balance the front loading of amenities into the park, which would give it more of a "park" feel, with parking challenges on site. There were concerns raised regarding the cost to relocate the road and utilities as well as the need for additional stormwater management infrastructure if additional impervious surface is added to the site.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Comments from the Steering Committee regarding the preliminary concept plans are due to Steve by next Wednesday, 12/21/22.

Next Steering Committee meeting will be scheduled after the holidays.

## **REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM 10/20/2022**

The group discussed a couple amendments to the draft minutes, including removing affiliation notes from attendees listed under the Members of the Public section.

Lefty moved to approve the minutes of 10/20/2022 as amended

David Frothingham seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Tami Bass moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Dan Potter seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Potter, Secretary