**Open Spaces and Recreation Plan**

**10 Mechanic Street Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday February 15th, 2024**

**Meeting In-Person and Via Zoom**

*This was a continuation of the January 29th, 2024 OSRP meeting that began the review of the 2017 Open Spaces and Recreation Plan in order to determine what has been done, and what still needs to be done in creating the coming five-year plan.*

Attendees:

Hannah Crawford, Sahan Sahin, Nicole Rutkowski, Denis Fraine, Sean Harrington, David Ahnert, Chad Kelley, Claudia Decker, Kaya Sahin

*Administrator Crawford called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.*

*Ms. Crawford begins the meeting by going over the agenda for the meeting. Going over the progress made since the last meeting by her and the interns by reviewing the survey results and starting a proposal 2024 action plan. Also, talk about mapping and the property assessments for all the recreation sites.*

**Property Assessments of Recreation Sites:** *Sean O’Neil, Chad Kelley, and Sean Harrington went to the sites and took pictures of the recreation sites to see what needs to be improved and what does not.*

**DiPietro/ South/ Primavera School/ Field Complex on Harpin:**

The committee looked through pictures and labeled satellite images of the site that show the condition of different things on the property. Unmarked trails at the location behind field D. Then they looked at the accessibility assessment briefly.

**Stallbrook School field:**

Ms. Crawford starts by expressing that this site is in decent shape. DPW maintenance consists of cutting grass, but the committee believes that is it.

**Clara Macy Elementary School Playground and Field:**

The fencing around the facility is in bad shape, playground is vandalized.

**Crook’s Corner:**

The fence on back of the property line needs to be fixed.

**Silver Lake**

Looked at the pictures

**Jenks Reservoir**

The trail on the site is blocked off, unsure what trail it is will need to look into finding out the use.

**North Bellingham/ North Field**

They are dedicated soccer fields but has limited parking. Graffiti on the kickball wall and basketball court. Flooding occurs on the back left side of the property and has a struggle draining when there is lots of rain, so getting drains put in place around the perimeter to fix the draining problem. Not utilized anymore for towns use for soccer or other activities. A few small trails exist next to the field, the committee discussed the possibility of putting a walking trail around the outside of the field. The field used to be used for training camps but now all soccer activities happen at the Blackstone Field.

**Town Common**

The most common place for recreation in town with the highest degree of compliments from the townspeople on the survey. Makes a good role model for the other locations in town.

**High Street**

The trail on the high street is in good shape, but the three softball fields are in rough shape. New fencing was put in. The committee proposed the idea to look into making this location a multiuse field because of its central location. Pictures were looked at of the field conditions and the trails to the Blackstone River.

**Bellingham High School**

Pictures shown of XC trail made by Eagle Scouts.

**Bellingham Memorial Middle School**

Looked at overview pictures along with ones from outside the school.

**Blackstone Street fields/ playground**

Softball and baseball fields near the middle school are in mad shape. Flooding occurs on lower soccer fields near the edges. The committee wants to get all departments in town involved to be a part of these projects.

**Action Plan Proposal 2024**

*Ms. Crawford shares a spreadsheet of organized survey results that she and the con/com interns worked on.*

Ms. Crawford explains the organization of the spreadsheet that follows different steps to make a plan. The committee looks through the survey and agrees that more organizations for events in town along with people to maintain recreation sites like parks and recreational employees. They mention the idea of looking into more grants and resources.

Mr.Fraine explains that the Blackstone Fields and Silver Lake were created and bought through urban self-help grants that do not exist anymore, and to make the town aware when something is broken to be fixed.

**Mapping**

At the end of the meeting Mr. Ahnert presents the maps of the town. The committee then spent some time looking over the maps of the town-owned space. A few funding resources were viewed as well.

*Mr. Sahin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Motion was seconded by Ms. Crawford.*

*Minutes submitted by Kaya-Erkan Sahin.*