

## Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: 2/1/2023

Approved minutes 4-4-23

Location: Community Center Room

Meeting Commenced at 6:15

Present: Scott Kerr, Kim Merrill, Steven Palmer, Robert Abbott

Approved absence: Laurie Gilman

Liaison: Andrea Berry

Other: Rob Wood, Alvin Ahlers

*Announcements:* None

*Approved Minutes:* January minutes approval was postponed until April meeting

*Public Comment:* None

*New Business:* None

Old Business:

1. A brief discussion of the list of activities related to the work completed by Public Works for the town parks was mentioned. The list was informative. No action taken.
2. Al Ahlers addressed the proposed budget for the dredging of Baston Park. The findings of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) will impact decisions that may affect the water levels upstream. Given the uncertainty of the findings and future decisions about any partial or complete dam removal, it was recommended that the complete budget proposal be broken into two parts. The first would be the completion of an engineering report that would indicate the dredging width and depth required to make a canoe/kayak put-in at Baston Park a successful boat launch into the Royal River, based on the findings of ACE.

Rob Wood spoke to the value of the dredging project. He commented that the budgeted amount seemed doable, then added that grants and other fund raising might help reduce the total cost to the town. Bob inquired about future maintenance costs. Sediment settling over the years will continue, thus dredging will be required at some unknown timeline. Al suggested it might be 10+ years. Steve indicated DEP will require a new NRPA permit at that time, but certain costs currently expended in the first application will not be required when future dredging is required.

The safety of a boat launch at Baston would be an improvement to the current put-in across the river on Route 9. Rob spoke to this.

Andrea asked about a phase in approach for FY 24 and FY 25 due to timing issues of when dredging can occur and the time required for a permit to be written, processed and approved.

The budget was broken into phase one and phase two.

**Vote:** The committee voted 4-0 **made by Steve Palmer and second by Kim Merrill** to approve the motion to present a budget of \$6,875 to the Select Board for Phase one for FY 24.

### 3. General Parks Budget

Scott introduced budget items for discussion and vote.

The following items were approved by a vote of 4-0

Hayes Town Forest: \$2,000

grinding equipment for grooming the trails

Chandler Brook Preserve: \$5,200

lime and fertilizer \$4,000

forest survey \$1,200

Knight's Pond: \$1,000

two benches

Split Rail Fencing: \$1,000

Invasives: \$5,000

Signage Upgrades: \$2,000

Forestry Consulting Services: \$1,500

4. Chandler Brook Preserve Management Plan(CBPMP)

A motion was made **by Steve Palmer and seconded by Bob Abbott** to accept the plan and have it forwarded to the Select board for approval. Motion passed 4-0.

5. Next Meeting planned for either April 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02

Minutes written by Steven Palmer