

# Bridgewater Parks and Recreation Commission

## Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2024

Members Present: Mark Thomas, Mike Flaherty, Gina Guasconi, Jim Small, Tom Arrighi

Other attendees: John Hart

Mark Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Gina asked to make a motion that all agenda items for tonight's meeting except the Natural Resources Trust Trails discussion be postponed until the February meeting. Mark stated that the discussion for the Trails could continue and the formal motion to move other agenda items will be discussed later.

There was discussion about the specific location of the land that the Natural Resources Trust wanted to use for the Old State Farm Trail. It is a proposed 1.8-mile trail that will run along the Taunton River. There are several communities involved in the planning of this trail system.

Gina explained that Kitty (Doherty) would like a letter with the Parks and Recreation Commission's support of the grant request to the MassTrails Grant Program. Mark stated that he saw the initial proposal from the group last spring, and he thought it looked like a good project. Mark asked John Hart if as Park Steward, he was involved with the project. John stated that he was aware of it, but Kitty was the person involved with it. Gina explained that this was a project with multiple phases, and we were currently in Phase IV. She explained that the Community Preservation Committee had approved approximately \$40,000.00 for this project already.

Gina read aloud a proposed letter of support that Kitty had provided. The Commission members agreed that they were in support of the grant request and Jim Small agreed to sign the letter and will have Allyson send it to Kitty. Mark explained that going forward, the process the Parks and Recreation Commission will need to follow on projects etc. is that the Commission recommends action and Jim Small will be responsible for signatures/approval as needed, as the Parks and Recreation Superintendent. Gina then made a motion to send a letter of support for the 1.8-mile Old State Farm Trail grant

request. It was seconded and the motion was approved. Mark will reach out to Allyson to have the letter sent to Kitty.

Mark made a motion to postpone the remaining January agenda items to the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was seconded and approved. Mike advised that he would not be able to attend the Feb 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mark stated that he would check with all the members and depending on their availability he would determine the February meeting date.

Mike made a motion to have the virtual meetings cancelled and changed back to an in-person meeting. Tom seconded the motion, and it was approved. Mark will send the in-person meeting motion forward to the Town Manager. Gina suggested that there was a conference on the second floor of Town Hall that appears to have the technology available to do remote meetings. Gina also suggested that each Commission member send their own email requesting in person meetings to the Town Manager. There was discussion that the only other group meeting in person is the Town Council. Mark will take this issue to the Town Manager.

Gina made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:21. The motion was seconded and approved.