



**TOWN OF LEICESTER  
BURNCOAT PARK SPORTS PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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**MINUTES OF MEETING  
October 28, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Marttila, Chair, Russ Anderson, clerk, Dianna Provencher, Kevin Desaulnier (left at 7pm), Vice Chair, John True (arrived at 7pm) and Steve Parretti

GUESTS: none

Meeting called to order at 6:15 pm by Chair, Dawn Marttila. Meeting held at Town Hall

**MINUTES:**

MOTION:

SECOND: Dianna

VOTE: All in favor

**Reorganization:**

MOTION: Steve moved to leave the board as is

SECOND: Dianna

VOTE: All in favor

Discussion revolved around whether we need a treasurer, but it was decided that if we do fundraise in the future a fundraising coordinator would be appointed.

**Mass Trails Grant Update:** Dawn is working with the Town through Kristen and Libby Knott of Mass Trails to get things moving. Libby sent Dawn a list of what she needs.

MOTION: Russ made a motion to appoint Dawn "Project Coordinator" to allow her to make decisions on behalf of the committee to keep things moving.

SECOND: Steve

VOTE: All in favor

Permits are needed from ConCom ASAP in order to get started. In Steve's opinion it should qualify for a Request for Determination (RDA). Dawn will request this be put on the ConCom agenda ASAP.

**Storage Container Discussion:** Snowmobile club has asked to keep a storage container at Burncoat Park. Steve has offered them a 40' container that Verizon has at their Charlton location if they can arrange to move it. David Genreux stepped in to answer a few questions. He said if the committee approves a formal request from the Snowmobile Club it will be sent to the Select Board for their approval but he does not see other legal issues that could be a problem. Jon True said the snowmobile club will submit a formal request but it will include their need of a key to the gate so they can access whenever needed. Currently the Highway Department controls access and keeps a key which can be signed out. The committee feels that this should be changed to allow easier access maybe even removing or leaving gates open so anyone can enjoy the park. Do the Fire and Police Department even have a key?

**Vandalism:** David explained that an article for \$70,000.00 for security cameras on town properties was voted down at Town Meeting. He said they will resubmit the request with a more detailed plan and try again. He hoped that a camera or two at Burncoat could be included in this. He has notified the Highway Superintendent that doors on the building need to be repaired to dissuade vandals. We noted that Highway had repaired damage to the road due to flooding from torrential rains this summer.

**Sign update:** Jon will arrange signs to be ordered through Highway

**Open Space and Master Plan:** We are waiting for the Open Space Plan to be completed in order to go ahead with the Master Plan. Survey results need to be reviewed. Dawn read some examples which included a desire for more and better access to open space including swimming, fishing, hiking etc. She suggested that we make reviewing the surveys and coming up with a plan the focus of our next meeting. Russ informed the committee he met with officials from Mass Wildlife at Burncoat to discuss fishing access. Although initially excited by the idea after further looking into it some questions arose. According to Doug Cameron, engineer with the Department of Fish and Game, documents recorded at the registry of deeds call into question our right to access the water. He pointed to Book 27637-4 which appears to be a taking of the lake by eminent domain by the Burncoat Pond Watershed District which is also referenced in Book 6532 page 40. He suggested we ask Town Counsel to provide an opinion as to whether the Town, as an abutter, has any rights to use Burncoat Pond for swimming, boating, or fishing. This will need to be resolved before we can make any plans that include using the water. Dawn will bring this information to David and ask for an opinion from Town Counsel.

**Jarvis Survey:** Jarvis Land Surveyors did a survey and recorded the locations of flagging put in to indicate wetlands around the ball fields, so we have a permanent record. The plan they provided shows no benchmarks, landmarks, or dimensions. ConCom paid for this using Notice of Intent (NOI) funds. Steve will look into it.

**New Business:**

- No fall clean up needed, maybe in the spring

MOTION: Dianna moved to adjourn meeting

SECOND: Russ

VOTE: All in favor

Meeting adjourned 8:12pm.

Next meeting will be held Thursday November 18, 2021 at 6:00pm