



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

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**MINUTES OF MEETING
April 14, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Marttila, Chair, Dianna Provencher, Steve Parretti, John True, Greg Conlan, Paul Fontaine, and Kevin Desaulnier.

GUESTS: Burncoat Pond Watershed Association members

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm by Chair, Dawn Marttila. Meeting held at Town Hall and virtual

MINUTES:

MOTION: Greg moved to accept minutes from March with several amendments

SECOND: Dianna

VOTE: All in favor

Old Business:

Signs: John has signs that say “beach closed” and Carry in/Carry out trash. He will install one each at the beach area and at the gate. Cost of these signs was \$291.40 and will be processed by Maureen out of our account.

GWCF Grant: A new round is due April 22, 2022 and Kevin has been working on it to provide funding to make necessary changes along the entryway area to the park. Paul explained that the Leicester Savings Bank fund was established when Country Bank took over Leicester Savings Bank and provides grants for various projects in town. Kevin said that if successful we should expect anywhere from \$2500-5000. Paul said they will make decisions in May and we should hear by our June meeting.

Master Plan Update: Alice Webb of Earth Design has been given the go ahead to begin work on the master plan based on our suggestions, her research and the Open Space Plan. Dawn sent copies of the Open Space Plan to committee members. We expect to see a draft of the master plan by June. Kristen will arrange the payment of \$8600 which we have already provided for. Members of the Burncoat Pond Watershed Association expressed concern about our plans for the park and swimming area. Dawn and other members tried to summarize our intentions. We encourage their input and will keep them informed through their representative, Greg. There are no current plans to open the beach to swimming. If that becomes possible in the future, the committee will work with them to deal with pond weeds.

Trail Grant: Dawn met with Highway Superintendent at the park. Highway will undertake a number of the grant provisions (see March minutes). Dawn had a copy of the septic system which is under the parking lot which means the lot cannot be impervious. Dennis said that he hopes to use road grindings/millings on the parking area and trail to the beach. This has been approved as ADA compliant by Mike Sylva. Dennis would like to work on the main road leading into the park at this time as well. He hopes he can use some Chapter 90 funds for this. Greg expressed concern that

millings could cause runoff or pollution. Steve pointed out that this would be determined by DEP after we submit an NOI (see ConCom update). Dealing with invasives will need to be postponed until next year because we have missed the window to do that work. Highway said they could help with that but would prefer not to and would need special equipment. Members suggested it should be done by professionals so that it does not make matters worse. Dawn thought volunteer groups like girl scouts could do it. Libby of MassTrials told Dawn that we should plan to use SCA to work on trails as outlined in our proposal. Dawn will contact them. She thought it would cost around \$4000 for a couple weeks on the trail.

Highway/Snowmobile club updates: The Highway Department intends to mow the field this summer. The Snowmobile club has submitted a revised letter expressing their request to put a storage container at the park (see attachment). This will be forwarded to Select Board and David. Dennis suggested the best spot would be between the pump house and the bath house. Some trees and grading would need to be done. Dennis could have that done in June. John said he would like to look at the location and ask the snowmobile club if this would be ok. He hopes to move the container to its intended location by summer and they plan to use it starting this fall. He would like it on site for at least a month to monitor vandalism. Concerns over vandalism were discussed including potential for security cameras and routine police patrols in the future. Having the park used by groups like the snowmobile club will help establish a presence in the park that in itself could deter vandalism. There has been vandalism at other parks in town as well and the town is considering monitoring devices for public areas and the Becker Campus.

ConCom Update: Steve told us that ConCom has approved the use of \$2200 in NOI funds to have Art Allen delineate wetlands along the parking and trail to beach and to write the NOI. Once submitted the NOI must be reviewed and approved by the DEP who will issue a MADEP permit number before work can begin.

Ethics: Dawn reminded us all to do the state ethics training at [mass.gov.ethics](https://www.mass.gov/ethics) and submit the completion form to her or town clerk before our next meeting.

New Business:

Scrap metal/old bleachers need to be discarded. Steve will look into getting it moved.

Clean up day: Sunday May 22, 2022, 9-11am

Summer 2022: John suggested we open the gates weekends to allow people better access to the park and to allow us to monitor problems. We will decide this month after consulting with Police Chief and Highway and when we have a better timeline on when the work at the park will be done.

Other Funding: Dawn suggested we look into other grants for funding. Steve asked if there was a mechanism for donations by individuals or matching funds from employers. Dawn said we do not have a non-profit number, but a check can be made to the town earmarked for use at Burncoat Park.

MassAudubon: Greg said Jen Madson has been appointed their new representative and would like to reach out to us. He supplied Dawn with her contact information.

Next meeting: May 12, 2022

On the next agenda: Opening the gates, weekends

Arrangements for Clean up day.

MOTION: John moved to adjourn meeting

SECOND: Paul

VOTE: All in favor

Meeting adjourned 8:00pm.

Next meeting will be held Thursday April 14, 2022, at 6:00pm

Agenda items:

- Opening the park in 2022
- Signage
- Spring Clean up

