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Wethersfield Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Mill Woods Master Plan Meeting Minutes - February 12, 2004

Ms. Bagley opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. A list of members present is attached to meeting minutes.

1. Organization of Committee.

Ms. Bagley welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. She explained that the purpose of this sub-committee of the Advisory Recreation and Parks Board would be to present a plan to the Park Board to begin the implementation of the Mill Woods Master Plan. Ms. Bagley provided a very brief overview of the facility improvements in Mill Woods Park. Committee members then discussed ways to approach the implementation of the Master Plan. Ms. Bagley explained that the athletic fields are interconnected with the utility improvements because of their need for water and electricity at each new athletic field site. She explained how the infrastructure is important to the plan, but it is difficult to raise funds to support the infrastructure. Peter Gardow suggested looking at the implementation of soccer field #2 and Little League field #2. He suggested looking at these two facilities because they would provide an immediate impact to the number of athletic fields in town and both fields are at either end of the park and would bring the utilities out to the far end of the park. Members of the Committee felt this was a good goal to work towards and began to discuss research necessary to build these two fields. Discussion was held on the use of well water versus MDC water. The Committee felt the option of utilizing wells for irrigating the fields should be pursued. A discussion was undertaken regarding the amount of ground water in the park and making sure the design of the park includes dealing with the amount of water in the ground throughout the park.

Ms. Bagley introduced Tom Ragonese, a member of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board. She will be asking the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board at their meeting on February 26, 2004, to appoint a Board member to serve as chairman for this sub-committee. She suggested Tom Ragonese might be a good candidate for this position. Tom indicated an interest as serving as the chairman and this issue will be brought to the attention of the Park Board at their next meeting.

A lot of discussion was held on ways to fund this project. Representatives from the Little League organization and the soccer organization in town thought grants might be available to help with the building of fields. Members talked about a time line for this process. They felt meeting once a month was an appropriate time and everyone agreed to the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Committee members thought a goal of breaking ground in twelve (12) months to begin constructing these fields is reasonable for their time frame. The Committee developed a series of questions at this meeting with people on the Committee responsible for researching the information.

1. Bill Smyers and Wesley Sargent will meet with the architect of the Mill Woods Master Plan to see about getting any survey material used by the architect for the Master Plan.
2. John Thibeault will look into the information on drilling wells and contact people to help with this process.
3. The Recreation and Parks staff will determine the hourly rate for Kaestle Boos Architect, Dick Webb, for future work with him and his firm regarding potential designs for the building of the two fields.
4. Craig MacGovern will look into grants for lighting the Little League field.
5. The Recreation and Parks staff will contact Bill Dest to ask about his knowledge of water and drainage issues regarding Mill Woods Park.
6. Recreation and Parks staff will look into any historical records on borings and costs for borings for Mill

Woods Park.

7. Recreation and Parks staff will determine the status of state grant money for the park entrance.
8. Recreation and Parks staff will talk to the Police Department about the design for the new entrance and get their input on the traffic considerations.
9. Recreation and Parks staff will develop a time line for the sub-committee.
10. Recreation and Parks staff will look into grants for dredging the upper pond. Members thought that this material could be used as fill for the athletic fields.

Craig MacGovern suggested the sports groups might be able to raise \$5,000 to help pay for costs associated with the designs of these two fields. Ms. Bagley suggested a match between the town and the sports leagues. If the sports leagues contribute \$5,000, she would request in her budget a match of \$5,000 so that \$10,000 would be put aside to help with the implementation costs for the two ballfields and other areas the Committee may look to consider as part of the plan for the implementation.

Charles Wood suggested contacting Williamsport for the Little League Association to determine if funds are available for building Little League fields.

Ms. Bagley explained that other groups are looking to implement facilities identified in the Master Plan. One group is the Skate Park Committee. Since land has been designated in Mill Woods Park for a Skate Park, this organization is raising funds for the facility. The Friends of the Nature Center are raising funds to renovate the Moeller Home as the future Nature Center location. Both these groups are looking to raise the funds necessary to build these facilities.

Committee members asked that the Mill Woods Master Plan maps be brought to the committee meetings for review by the Committee. Recreation and Parks will set up a Committee of all members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.