

Parks & Trails Advisory Board
MONTH DAY, YEAR Meeting Minutes
6:00pm

Present: *Charlotte Lomino III, Mary Thill, Colleen O' Neil, Ashley Garwood, Ezra Schwartzberg, Stephen Langdon, Leigh Walrath, Jimmy Cunningham, Stacey Allot, Katrina Glynn (Community Development Director), Bayle Reichart (Community Development Assistant), Kelly Brunette (Saranac Lake Trustee), Bachana Tsiklauri (Village Manager) (Present for part of meeting), some members of the public including Leanne Baker and Rick Weber)*

Approval of meeting minutes: *Charlotte Lomino III, Jimmy Cunningham*

Minutes:

1. Special Guest speaker Rachel Child could not make this meeting after it was rescheduled. She will attend the next meeting in June.
2. Recommendation for Baldwin Park use
 - a. NYS has not responded yet as to whether a plan with a pickleball court would be acceptable under the grant. June 1st decision grant will be almost certainly extended.
 - b. Village Trustee Kelly Brunette gave us a deeper background of Baldwin Park and how we got to this point.
 - i. In 2021, the Village board chose Baldwin Park as a project to work on.
 1. April 2021 - the Village awarded ~20k to do schematic planning
 2. 2022 - We were not awarded funding in round 1 - one of the reasons was that we had an option A and an option B (one of which included courts) - NYS didn't want that, told us we wouldn't get funding with court surface.
 3. 2023 - We received funding with a new proposal not including courts.
 - c. Discussion was had about DOT Permits, crosswalks, sidewalks, and parking. While important, this topic is tangential to the primary focus of this conversation. Dialogue with the DOT needs to be opened.
 - d. Katrina explained the difference between a variant and a permit. A variant is required when what we want to do is non-conforming, as in this case.
 - e. Public Comment
 - i. Leanne Baker
 1. Collected 500 petition signatures for Pickeball courts to stay.
 2. Claims a majority of Saranac Lake residents want pickleball courts.
 3. Claims long term economic benefits of bringing people in with competitions, etc.
 4. A minimum of 6 courts in town is needed for competitions. We currently have 5 sans Baldwin Park (3 at Pisgah, 1 at Garwood, 1 at High School).
 - a. Leigh questioned the logistics of having a competition over 4 different locations
 - ii. Susan (*last name not recorded*)
 1. Wondered about deed restrictions regarding parking and other uses.

- f. A lot of discussion was had about having a comprehensive plan regarding sports facilities. A few members (Leigh, Colleen, Charlotte) discussed performing a needs assessment to see how many facilities we have and how many we need (new pickleball courts, basketball courts, etc). It may be true that pickleball is the most underrepresented sport in town, but it also may not be. What about having new basketball courts or something similar? How do we know that pickleball is the highest need?
- g. Stacey mentioned the possible legal requirement of having a bathroom at Baldwin Park.
 - i. *Stacey to look into this to find more information*
- h. Leigh gave a thorough explanation of the boardwalk predicament
 - i. The rating of the wetland is a value 1 wetland - the highest value.
 - ii. Since the boardwalk is not connecting two locations that can only be connected through the wetland, the necessity of the boardwalk is very low. Both sides can be easily reached with an adjacent sidewalk.
 - iii. There are many other water access points, making the boardwalk further potentially unnecessary, especially in the eyes of the APA.
 - iv. It is of the opinion of Leigh, a former APA employee, that it is very unlikely that Saranac Lake will get the variance to be allowed to build the boardwalk.
- i. It was also mentioned that if we took out the boardwalks and only left one boardwalk of less than 100 square feet, we could make this project non-jurisdictional to the APA, and it wouldn't require their input at all.
 - i. PTAB agreed, however, that we should push for an ADA-accessible kayak launch (none of these exist in town at the moment). <100sqft may be possible for this.
- j. In conclusion, the boardwalk is very unlikely and PTAB wants this park to be useful to the community. Pickleball courts are one of the options to do this. Other options are also possible, but the exact needs of the community are not yet known. PTAB will wait to make a final recommendation until NYS responds with what it will allow under the grant funding.

3. Updates

- a. Community Enhancement Committee - Ward Plumadore Park
 - i. The committee performed a punch-list walk of the site. Stacey said that with vegetation, the park will look better with current design than it looks now, but that enhancements are still desired.
 - 1. Some plant species from the consultant will be potentially switched out per the recommendations of Kathy Steinbrueck (DAB member, Community Enhancement Committee member, and former florist).
 - 2. Due to seeding, park use cannot be promoted until autumn of this year.
 - ii. Short-term solutions are largely decided and in progress. There is a \$10k budget for the short term solutions. Katrina is getting a quote for a recommended paint application.
 - iii. Long term plans may include a terrace on the high wall.
- b. Downtown bike racks
 - i. Charlotte, Leigh, Jimmy, and two members of DAB (Jerry and Kathy) did a walk downtown to discuss locations for bike racks as well as how to allocate these

resources. A draft plan has been developed. Awaiting final approval from all folks who did the walk, which will then be sent to the DPW for implementation. Paolo, the owner of the parking lot next to ADKArtRise, will need to approve the plans for that parking lot. Charlotte to follow up and get final input from all walkthrough folks.

- c. Garwood Park
 - i. Ashley and Katrina have been working together to develop a plan for Garwood Park upgrades.
 - 1. Katrina has requested a local engineering firm to develop plans and a cost estimate for park upgrades, including playground equipment.
 - 2. Katrina is looking for a grant writer.
 - ii. It is very unlikely that the application will be ready for this year's grant window (July), but this will give us time to develop a non-rushed, well-thought out, competitive plan and grant application for next year.
 - iii. Some work may be high enough priority to try and get done this year with money from the general fund, such as fixing broken equipment and updating/short term repairing the fence. Ashley to develop a summary of what work needs to be done ASAP so that it can be presented to the Village Board to have the work done from the general fund.
 - d. Rail Trail Signage
 - i. Ezra and Charlotte got together with the other advisory boards, village staff, and ROOST employees to develop a plan for rail trail signage. Charlotte will send the final result to PTAB.
 - e. Charlotte did not allocate sidewalk sections to everyone as planned, and will do that before the beginning of the week starting Monday, May 27. Charlotte to allocate sidewalk sections.
 - f. Discussion has been opened up with the village about some DOT concerns, including high amounts of sand on the road and a dangerous crosswalk signal at River and Church. Charlotte to continue to follow up on this.
 - g. Everyone else - continue working on your projects! You're all doing great!
4. New Business
- a. Summer recess
 - i. All agreed to continue on with a June meeting and to discuss any summer recess as it may come.
5. Meeting adjourned 7:37pm. *Motion Charlotte Lomino III, Second Ashley Garwood*