

**TOWN OF ENFIELD
JOHNSTON PROPERTY USE COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2023**

Johnston Property Use Committee (JPUC) Members in Attendance: Nancy L. Smith (via Teams), Julie Eckert, Bradley Rich, Alice Kennedy (came in late), Nate Miller, Franklin (Bud) Lynch, Jr.

JPUC Members Absent: Afrille Degoma

Ex Officio Members in Attendance: Ed Morris, Town Manager and Kevin Marker, Recreation Director

Ex Officio Members in Absent:

Called to order at 5:01 PM

Nate Miller started the meeting with brief introductions of each member.

Approve Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 2022 was made by Brad Rich and Seconded by Julie Eckert. Motion was passed 5-0.

Dave Beaufait made a point of order that the vote should be a roll call vote, since Nancy Smith was attending electronically. The vote was retaken by roll call with the same result 5-0.

BUSINESS

PRESENTATION

Ed Morris told the committee he was going to combine the history of the property and a review of the presentation that he gave the Select Board. He explained to the committee that the land the Town owns at the end of Johnston Beach was railroad property. While the railroad owned the property, some cabins were allowed to be built on the property. In the 1990's the State of New Hampshire became the rightful owner of the property. In 2000 that State offered the land to the Town. In 2000 this was added to the Town Capital Improvement Plan as a Town Beach, and in 2011 this land was approved in Article 11 for acceptance. The land was officially given to the Town in April of 2001 with the stipulation that the long term leases for the cabins would remain in effect until forfeited or until the current leases passed away. The leases would not be allowed to be sold or passed on to heirs.

In 2022 the 2nd of three of the leases were forfeited which opened the 1.5 acers on the east side of the stream that we are talking about. Mr. Morris then explained the property and his proposed plan to add a fence to delineate parking and to complete minimal upgrades to the road (grading and gravel). He also discussed the need to remove the structures if the property was to be used as a public park or beach. There was also some brief discussion about accessibility, and access.

The committee asked Kevin Marker where the closest parks would be to that side of Town, which was answered that the closest recreation parks would be Huse Park and Lakeside Park (down the rail trail). There was some discussion about where people could park if the Town did not allow vehicle access. Discussion was had that the Town should not steer people to Ice House Road since that is also a private road and is parking in Lebanon which could cause them and the neighbors in another Town issues. Other than Ice House Road, parking would need to be in the area of Lakeside Park and the Village. Julie Eckert made a comment that not allowing vehicle traffic would be good for those that lived in the Village but would not be useful for those that live in the rural areas of Town. There was also discussion about those with accessibility issues.

The presentation and discussion ended with an overview of proposed costs and possible revenue sources such as parking and rental space.

PLAN FOR FUTURE RESEARCH AND PROCESS

Nate Miller led a discussion on how the committee wants to plan future process and research. It was decided that the committee would communicate with:

- Abutters
- Friends of the Northern Rail Trail
- Conservation Commission
- Recreation Board
- Master Planning Task Force
- Mascoma Lake Association
- Public
- And others to be determined at the next meeting

There was a brief discussion about coming up with questions that will be asked to all groups. The committee came to a consensus that all groups should be asked the same questions.

OPEN COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Discussion was about the next meeting, and a decision was made to have Rob Taylor attend the meeting to discuss zoning as it relates to the site and Ed Morris would discuss value and tax possibilities if the land was to be sold. After this presentation, the board would work on questions and a schedule for meeting with identified groups.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kurt Gotthardt presented some deed research that he completed and discussed survey pins and granite markers he found in the area.

Dave Beaufait confirmed Ed Morris's comment from earlier that the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail would not get involved with a Town issue but would work with the Town and State on whatever decision was made.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date/Time: Thursday January 26, 2023 @ 5:00 P.M.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:21