

**TOWN OF ENFIELD
JOHNSTON PROPERTY USE COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2023**

Johnston Property Use Committee (JPUC) Members in Attendance: Nancy L. Smith (via Teams), Bradley Rich, Alice Kennedy, Nate Miller, Affrille Degoma, Julie Eckert

JPUC Members Absent: Franklin (Bud) Lynch, Jr.

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

Ex Officio Members in Absent: N/A

Called to order at 5:32 PM

Approve Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2023, was made by Brad Rich and Seconded by Julie Eckert Motion was passed 6-0.

BUSINESS

Nate Miller welcomed the abutters that were attendance both in the room and inline. He reviewed the questions and information the JPUC is looking for which is, what their vision for the property is and what concerns they may have about the property.

Barbara Ruel spoke first. She expressed concerns about the right of way, road ownership , and traffic if the road was to be used. She did want the property to remain Town property and be open to the public. She believed it should be walk or bike in and not accessible to the public by vehicles, because the road is a private road. Thinks the buildings should be removed and gardens or planting should be used to beautify the property.

Mr. Johnston was there representing Mr. Butler. He was concerned that if the road was improved they would have to take more land from the abutters. He voiced concerns that the road should not be used as a public access. Mr. Johnston stated he would like to see the property stay as is and be accessed by the rail trail.

Peter Forest explained that the loons use the brook. He feels use of the road by the public would be dangerous and feels that lights would be needed to make it safe.

Barbara Jones thinks the property is beautiful and she feels lucky to live in such a beautiful spot. She agrees with the neighbors that the road should not be used for the public and has some concern over the damage to the road this past year. She discussed her right of way across the land as another concern. Barbara does feel the property should remain as natural as possible, but expressed it needed to be cleaned up. She stated a few more picnic tables, benches, or even campsites would be a good

addition to the property. She asked that the JPUC recommend nice signage to be placed at the park. She also agreed that access should be walk in, bike in, or by water. Barbara Jones did want to point out the road damage caused by the increased traffic this year, and asked that the Town repair the damage.

Matilda West stated her vision is to encourage the Town to maintain this space as a bucolic, natural, accessible, inclusive, and welcoming property. She does not think it should be used as a Town Beach, but a natural place the public can visit. She feels the buildings should be removed, the property cleaned up and some benches can be placed around the property. She also feels that signage be placed near route 4 on Johnston Road to stop the public from driving down, and that the road should not be used for access to the property.

Wade Clapton would also like to see the property left alone and left in as natural of a state as possible. He stated that if the property is sold, it should be sold to the abutters.

Public Comment

Kurt Gotthardt discussed the property line work and deed research he completed and presented to the Committee at the January 12, 2023, meeting.

Upcoming meetings:

March 23rd

Conservation Commission

Recreation Commission

Adjourned at 6:45