

**Minutes
Hampden Town Council
Friends of Dorothea Dix Park Group
July 16, 2008 @ 6:30pm**

The meeting of the Hampden Town Council Friends of Dorothea Dix Park Group was called to order at 6:35 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at the Hampden Municipal Building by Chairperson Shannon Cox.

Gretchen Heldmann, GIS/IT Specialist
Bob Osborne, Town Planner
Kurt Mathies, Recreation Director
Councilor Tom Brann
Councilor Shannon Cox
Suzanne Mock
Thomas Nelson, Prentiss & Carlisle
Chris Packard
Lance Case
Kay Carter
Jim Feverston
Phil Stack

1. Introductions of new people.

Everyone around the table introduced themselves.

2. Business

The meeting began with some basic discussion of work done to date, including the Prentiss & Carlisle forest management plan and D. Dix Park planning proposal. The forest management plan was praised for being thorough and inclusive of many aspects of forest management including wildlife and invasive species objectives. It was noted that a possible way to manage the invasives would be to work with UM with regards to their native grasses research.

There are a couple of roads that go across the park property to people's camps and it was desired by those in attendance that this be researched by the town attorney to determine if those roads have an easement granted or if they are

encroachments. There is a survey for the park that was done within the last couple of years, and Lance indicated he'd like to see the boundary lines better marked and painted. Tom Nelson indicated that before they do any harvesting they would have to mark the lines due to state law requirements.

With regards to the harvest operation, he also stated that the harvest would be done mostly with hand crews and a cut to length system. He said that they could harvest during a dry summer or in winter, but they would need to return in spring/summer to do clean-up work because of the vegetation that could be covered by snow in the winter. Tom Nelson indicated that they need some input from this committee as to what they would like to see for infrastructure design, meaning trail location, so that P&C could react to that and see how it may work operationally. He noted that they would not be able to get equipment in the front entrance and would have to use that back road or perhaps a side access point. He also mentioned that people should think of where they want a cleared area, because that is where they could locate the landing for the logged trees.

There was some concern over the harvest and how the openings might stir up more invasive species activity, and that the park would need to be intensively managed into the future to control barberry and other briars from filling in the understory. Tom Nelson stated that with any harvest there will be disturbance and that is something to consider. He also stated that the forest right now is already mimicking a harvest, but at a slower rate- hence the invasives there now- they moved in when trees died and fell down, creating canopy openings.

Some suggestions for the harvest included having slightly different management schemes depending on forest type, and the possibility of using some of the harvested wood to help low income families heat their homes.

The group then went around the table one by one and each person listed what they would like to see happen with the park. The list on the following page represents these goals and is in order of suggestion, not priority.

Goals of the Friends of Dorothea Dix Park

- Meandering trails that go through different ecosystems
- Fix the pond area so it is passable and is a positive part of park
- Keep solid canopy if possible, minimal opening because of future maintenance and expense
- Easily passable trails
- Need regeneration or else all will die and there will be no future forest
- Open areas will need management in the future, so concern of long-term management to keep areas open
- Herbicide applications for one year noted in management plan, still need to do in years after
- Educational component- instructional kiosks
- Removal/maintenance of invasives
- Keep trails and concepts as close to 1903 plan as possible
- Get volunteer organizations on board to take care of park in future
- Hampden Garden Club wants to do plantings
- Archaeologists at UM find house foundation/do a dig?
- ADA accessible/ EMS accessible
- Council will lose interest so someone has to adopt and keep watch over park into future
- Outhouses
- Multiple paths, loop around- locate oaks?
- Adopt a garden in front of park
- Field trip destination
- Promote for the town as a destination spot
- Incorporate an art/statue component
- Create a guide book to natural features
- Pavilion
- Open space areas with grasses (native from UM project, low-mow species)
- Plant rhododendrons to help combat invasives
- Enhanced parking area in front and off back if possible
- Don't keep hopes up to follow plan exactly if won't work operationally
- Vistas off bank- can't harvest much anyway due to Shoreland zoning regulations
- All loops ADA accessible, not just some
- School bus access possible without damaging wall and/or holding up IA traffic
- Research wall location within DOT right-of-way, consider moving wall, protecting it, etc
- Bigger playground area

Overall, the ideas for the park were: historical, educational, recreational.

One person suggested contacting the Orono/Bangor Bog Boardwalk group and inviting Ron Davis to a meeting to talk about how they were successful in their venture and what they did to accomplish their goals. Another person suggested doing a press release for the next meeting to promote more interest.

For next time:

Gretchen & Lance will GPS more features in the park and work together on creating in GIS a map of the park. They will email out the map as soon as possible.

The next meeting is *Tuesday, July 29th* at 6:00pm at Dorothea Dix Park.

3. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned around 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Heldmann
GIS/IT Specialist