Meeting Minutes for BTCP July 30, 2019

Attending Members: Jo Vitti, Elaine Milardo, Mary Voskian

Attending Guests: Kevin Redline, Mary Berger

* Meeting minutes approved for June 18, 2019 meeting
* The committee discussed what should be considered while walking the site:
  + The terrain
  + Walking paths should meander through the flowering areas
  + Focus on the play/recreation area equipment
* Mary will attend the Selectmen's meeting to seek budget approval in order to have the proposed play/recreation area and proposed walking pathways mowed. The committee hopes the property will be mowed sooner so the proposed pathways will be accessible for the public to roam and get a feel for the scope of the concept plan.
* Mary shared pictures from Jupiter Hill School and Belfast play area:
  + Several ideas were shared regarding types of equipment that would be appropriate for the proposed play/recreation area: a smaller hill slide, stone seating, tires on coil springs, a small swing set, log seating as well as the possibility of planting smaller bushes around some of the equipment (Belfast had these around some of their equipment.) During the site visit kids were actively playing on some of the equipment and seemed to have an interest in going into the bushes around the adjacent equipment.
  + There were other ideas such as a small bushy tree for climbing as well as a larger covered culvert for age appropriate children. Some of these features could be carved into the wooded area adjacent to the existing gravel drive/pathway along the perimeter of the property that abuts the north corner. Kevin suggested striking out the words “gravel driveway” on the next updated plan to ensure vehicles will NOT access this path due to the existing septic system adjacent to the library parking lot.
* Consideration may be given for the town children to have an opportunity to vote for their favorite play/recreation equipment once the committee makes a decision on the specific types that could be available based on the proposed budget.
* Ann Stires, founder of Juniper Hill School, will be available to speak to the committee in November. She may be procured as the committee’s play/recreation planner.
* Mary plans on writing another ASK Grant for 2020 to seek funding for the proposed play/recreation planner. The goal is to seek approximately 2,000.00 dollars.
* The committee needs at least two members (or more) who are willing to research “possible inclusion in the play/recreation area.” The goal is to have a layout of the play/recreation area prepared in advance which will be presented to other committee members prior to Ann Stires visit in November. The book “Nature Play at Home” is available in the Bremen Library for reference. Mary has a copy as well. The Maine Conservation Corps was suggested as a possible group to assist with the project. There is a fee for their assistance.
* Mary will prepare a short mission statement for the BTCP. She will present it to the committee for comments before finalizing.
* Discussion of developing a proposed budget for each phase of the BTCP was discussed with a solid emphasis on Phase One of the plan which includes the play/recreation area, pavilion and walking trails. A minimum of 10,000 dollars was being discussed as a possibility for Phase One. When asked if she thought this amount was appropriate, Ann Stires said she thought it was a good amount to consider. The committee believes it would be wise to budget up to 15 or 20 thousand dollars to ensure the pavilion is included in Phase One of the concept plan.
* Mary and Jane have been meeting on developing a concept for a fundraising plan. More to come on that concept.
* Mary contacted Steven Hufnagel of Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust to speak with him about the new trails from the trust headquarters to the Damariscotta River. When Mary mentioned the difficulty with fundraising because BTCP is not a 501 (c) 3, Steven offered the trust as a 501 (c) 3 partner for BTCP.
* Other discussions included:
  + Timeline of the Phase One concept; meet with Ann Stires in November and have a solid layout of the proposed play/recreation area with equipment
  + Procure monies from ASK Grant to procure planner for play/recreation area
  + Work to commence on play/recreation area, proposed pavilion and walking paths by Summer of 2020
  + Maine’s Bicentennial is in 2020. Ideas were discussed to have an event to celebrate Maine’s Bicentennial. Some thought was given to procure a military musical group (no charge required) in August of 2020 as part of this celebration; other activities around this theme would be included. Mary will present the committee’s ideas for the Bicentennial to the Select Board at the August 1 meeting. We are asking for approval to book a U.S. military musical group and to begin plans for a Bicentennial Celebration in Bremen in 2020.
  + Find out what Lincoln County is planning to host for Maine’s Bicentennial event prior to BTCP launching their plan
  + Other types of fundraising ideas were discussed
  + Overall Phase One Plan to include: walking pathways, play/recreation area, and pavilion

Submitted by: Elaine Milardo

The next meeting of the BTCP Committee is Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Time Change for the Meeting: 6:30 PM