Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – 5.04.21

Committee Members Present: Paula Devereaux, Nancy Cantelmo, Margaret Alexander

Also Present: Courtney Lewis

Discussion on the Open House

* The presentation was excellent and attendees were engaged and found it valuable. There was a conflict on that day and so a small audience, also difficult to share link via the town website.

Courtney’s presentation - Review Open House Findings and Review Draft Survey Questions

23 live participants

114 respondents to survey

88 of those answered every question

Household members contain

62% over age 65, 19% children under 18, 9% disability

55% lived in Nahant 21+ years, 10% 16-20 yrs, 12% 11-15 yrs, 11% 6-10, 10% 5 or less years

64% female, 27% male

82% white, 4% Asian (1 person), 14% prefer not to say

Best way to receive info

22% mail, 23% social media, 13% word of mouth

12% flyers/posters, 11% Nahants recreation webpage

Adequate parks and greenspace within 10 minute walk

74% said yes, 21% no, 5% uncertain

How people get to and from parks in town. 67% walk/jog, 25% drive, 6% bike

This is a high percentage of people walking rather than driving

Favorite OS - Short Beach, East Point, Bailey’s Hill

Suggestions: Trim trees and shrubs, better sidewalks, bike lanes, bike racks, benches, seats, bathroom, events

People value: beauty, places to connect with nature, cleanliness, quiet place to relax, easy to get to, places to walk dogs, beach for walking, swimming

What should town focus on or prioritize

1 Maintain existing parks and facilities

2 acquire new land for conservation purposes

Plan Goals

Strong support to keep Goals 1, 2

Good suggestions to improve goals, and practicable suggestions as well

ADA accessibility to beaches

Spend more tax money on maintaining the land we own better

Plant trees and other vegetations, maintain from invasive plants and weeds, increased protection plants and wildlife, enhanced ADA access, multigenerational, partner with orgs to enhance recreational opportunities (NU, NPT, NHS, etc),

What did we miss?

Swings at Marjoram, Baileys Hill,

Restroom and lightings

Plant more trees and shrubs

Plant native plants, more trash barrels

End of presentation

Draft of survey questions

Discussion on draft questions

Suggestions from Courtney and Committee members

Ready for launch after the 15th

We internally can be doing?

Developing list of accomplishments since last plan

Any recent projects or improvements

Wins, CPA projects approved

Generating that list important

Getting Courtney our comments on the survey

Looking at the community vision, section 6 right before action plan

Tweak or reincorporate

Paula will send her comments on 5-year action plan, us to add our comments

Inventory map, community vision, analysis of resource needs

Gets pulled from survey

Management needs, conversation with this group and parks and recreation (DPW)

Goals and objectives

Annual town reports, CPC reports, Ellen and Paula to work on action plan

Margaret and Nancy to work on survey questions

How to distribute?

Not by mail – can have paper copies available at library, town hall

Could do a post card reminder, with link

Qr code can scan from phone, personalized link

Fliers and social media

Courtney available in June except 7-11, week of 14 or 21 could work

Next meeting TBD

Ellen moves to adjourn, Margaret seconds. Unanimously approved.

*Respectfully submitted to the Town Clerk’s Office as approved at the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee meeting on May 25, 2021.*