

Harwich Real Estate and Open Space Committee (REOS)
Library, Town Hall
July 17, 2015

Members Present: Kathy Green (Chair), John Preston, Bob Thomas, Elaine Shovlin, David Callaghan, Marcia Thorngate Smith, Wendy Woods-Hartwell

Guests Present: Michael Lach, Eric Beebe (Recreation Director), David Nixon (Recreation Commission)

Brooks Park Expansion

Eric Beebe presented a review of the work done and planned for Brooks Park. A design was done and expansion was divided into Phases. Phase 2 is complete which added two courts for tennis and pickle ball (which is in high demand). Phase 3 is planned which will add 25 parking spaces, a picnic pavilion, new basketball courts, and replace the tennis wall. Security cameras and LED lighting is planned. The Recreation Committee will be surveying people to see if the plans meet their needs and contacting abutters also. They are in the process of providing information to other town committees to get their support. We agreed that Kathy will write a letter of support to BOS.

Other Business

Michael reported that the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan has been submitted to the State and it is under review.

Three Owners Unknown properties were submitted to BOS for action but we have not heard anything back yet.

Kathy met with David Spitz to examine the list of town owned properties that are candidates for protection or disposal (with the goal of generating funds that could be used to acquire other properties). They eliminated some as not being practical. As an example, we discussed the Earle Road property beyond the current parking area. It would be very marketable but would run into serious objections from abutters. We agreed that we should send a list to BOS listing 3-4 possible properties before we proceed further. We further agreed that Kathy and David will come back with a list of properties before we send the letter.

The town staff is in the process of gathering financial data regarding the alternatives for the Middle School. We should stay tuned to get involved at the proper time.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am. Next meeting scheduled for August 21 at 8:30am

Respectfully Submitted:

John Preston, REOS Clerk