

August 16, 2010

To: NG Town Parks Commission

From: Rita Mahoney

Re: Your request for comments regarding updating of 2006 Town Parks Plan

Hello to all – Thanks, John, for sending survey results. It was helpful and interesting to see current responses and attitudes.

For a revised, updated plan, it could be helpful to segue from previous goals/objectives to updated goals/objectives by first identifying progress and accomplishments toward the six categories listed in the original action plan on page 27. If there was no progress in certain areas, explain reasons; i.e., financial, difficulty in implementation, time spent on other areas, etc.

Then second, identify the direction going forward based on the new survey results.

The 2010 survey has two objectives that 50% or more respondents indicated were very important...bike trails and preserving natural areas. These are the same two objectives identified in the 2005 survey...1) preserving natural areas/prairies/wetlands and 2) bike ways, cross country and town trails. It seems clear to continue this focus. However, perhaps the new goal could be a shift to a walking trail vs. a bike trail. As was pointed out in the remarks, bike trails are plentiful in our area. A picturesque walking trail with occasional benches leading into the Village fits in with our Swiss image.

More than 50% or more respondents identified 8 items that were not very important. Their written remarks seem to be summarized by: no interest, no need, don't spend the money and/or it's already available through the Village. The current economy and the limited number of responses have perhaps added some negativity that could be taken in moderation.

There appears to be a mandate for the top two objectives. The Parks Commission and the Town Board could collaborate on the focus for the remainder.

Five Year Goals

1. Create a legal agreement with the Village to share recreational costs and decision making.
2. Develop a walking trail from the Town into the Village, using the Impact Fee Ordinance description of community trail locations as a guideline.
3. Continue offering education on our native plant and animal habitat...what it is and how to preserve it. (I, for one, would be interested to attend a seminar about the water sources, water shed, and aquifers in and under our Town, where it comes from, where does it go, has it changed, how do we affect it, etc.)

I hope this helps. I am planning on attending your September meeting. Thanks for requesting my input and participation. Good luck.

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