

Town of Thomaston

Thomaston Green Park Ad-Hoc Committee

MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 24, 2024 @ 6PM - Select Board Room at Thomaston Town Office

1. Mapping + Design (6-7:15pm)

1. Landscaping & Design Subcommittee - Presentation on Initial Mapping Work followed by the whole committee working together to discuss and make adjustments to maps based on finding a general consensus

2. Legal Meeting - discussion about meeting with Rob Levin and determine next steps

3. Meeting Minutes - January 03, 2024

4. Adjourn (7:30PM)

Revised Schedule:

- January 23rd - 6pm - Planning Board Workshop - Zoning
- January 24th - 6pm - Regular Meeting (no longer a public workshop) - Maps
- February 6th - 6pm - Regular Meeting - finalized Immediate Recommendations
- February 12th - 6pm - Select Board Meeting - present Immediate Recommendations
- MARCH 16 (SATURDAY) - Northeastern University Design Charrette - Time TBD

AD HOC THOMASTON GREEN PARK COMMITTEE - DRAFT

01/03/24 Minutes

Members present: Zel, Jon, Noreen, Jane, Alan, Kathleen, Julie, Kathy, Marla, Ron, Micheal, Nancy, Patricia

Zel provided an update to the schedule and scope of the Ad Hoc Committee based on concerns expressed by members of the committee:

- We should prioritize what immediate recommendations we have for the Park for the next fiscal year. These items could include: infrastructure (water, electricity), perimeter trail or seating. We should also make recommendation about Zoning and Budget this year (note: we don't need to ask specifically if the funds are coming from the TIF or budget)
- We should extend the time frame to our work into the summer and make additional recommendations after our initial recommendation.
- We should have each subcommittee present their findings to ensure that their points have been captured in Jon's summary of the recommendation document. Any immediate recommendation or budget suggestions can be made.
- At any point in our meetings motions can be made and seconded for discussion and voting. We are working on reaching a consensus and topics should be discussed openly during our meetings.
- Prioritize LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund) Grant submission; consider presenting to voters in June 2024. \$500K is the maximum request which requires a \$250K match from the town.
- Second legal opinion - Rob Levin is only available during the day. Proposed 8am meeting that Jon and Zel will coordinate and distribute the date and zoom invite via email.
- Update plot map in progress - hope to have soon

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Governance & Funding:

- Proposing separate Park Manager which would require a job description such as being a liaison with Community/Economic Coordinator for securing grants
- Fiscal Agent could be the GRLT; recommending that there isn't a separate Board but that the park could be managed from the Park & Recreation Committees which already existing in the town
- Zoning changes and updated plot plan showing actual dimensions of park
- Will review attorney's work and offer further recommendations
- Apply for annual funding from Private sources, Downtown TIF, LWCF, and shared grant opportunities with a partnership with Knox Clinic;

Landscaping & Design:

- Create perimeter pathway; including ADA pathway
- Stone game tables, labyrinth, splash-pool, disc-golf

- Native plantings, shrubs, pollinator-friendly
- Pavilion priority for Phase 1; open-sided construction; help generate revenue; needs further discussion to determine location; used for weddings and other events; restrooms included in the pavilion because it is located in a good central location; good visibility and opportunity for food trucks and farmers markets; central location for electrical and water; feature to draw people to Thomaston
- Some new seating in Phase 1; additional seating to be planned for other phases

MOTIONS:

1. **That a portion of the existing trail to be ADA Accessible.** (Note: we discussed this path going towards the water and flag pole but that this needs further investigation) [Alan, Noreen 13,0,0]
2. **That the Town requests a Right of First Refusal for the purchase of the back lot of Ka Chai Thai.** [Noreen, Julie; 13,0,0]
3. **That the Town investigate a cooperative relationship to share Ka'Chai Thai parking lot.** [Julie, Noreen; 13,0,0]
4. **The Town (Ad Hoc Thomaston Green Park Committee) hires a design professional to help with a proposed plan for the park.** (The Committee would help develop a rough plan that would be a starting place) [Jane, Noreen; 13,0,0]
5. **The Town to pursue LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund) Grant submission for June 2024.** [Kathy, Noreen; 13,0,0]

Other items discussed:

- Perhaps William King does not connect through to Ship Street
- Zoning amendments to be distributed to Planning Board by January 16
- How do we make it easy for citizens / visitors to donate money to town
- Asa Peats did the landscape plan for Friends of Thomaston green based on some drawings he was presented that were the basis for his plan
- 100 Acres in Town Forest current in conversation easement that is managed by GRLT
- Other two subcommittee reports to happen next meeting (January 9)

Meeting Adjourned 7:35pm

Submitted by Zel Bowman-Laberge