

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Special Meeting March 2, 2023

A special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 5:30p.m. at the Mildred Wakeley Community Center, Gymnasium. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Al Centone at 5:33pm.

I. Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Al Centone, Bob Kowalewski, Keith Macdowall, Frank Montagna, Chris Pagan, Mary Lou Stamp

Commissioners Absent: Joan Walsh

Town Counsel: Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio

Staff Present: Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works
Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation
Jennifer Klein, Secretary

II. Discussion and Possible Action: Request from Peter's Rock Park Association for Mountain Bike Trail with Structures at Peter's Rock Park

Members of the Peter's Rock Park Association (the "Association") were in attendance to make a presentation to the Commission. Joanne Chvisuk, Association Vice President, advised that the Association would like to request an amendment to Town of North Haven Ordinance, Chapter 152, Section 152-1., L to allow for a mountain biking and mountain bike trails to be constructed within Peter's Rock Park.

Hugh Davis, Association President, provided an overview of the Association's mission statement. Walter Brockett, Association member, presented an overview of the different areas of Peter's Rock Park, it's flora and fauna, its trees, and projects that have been completed by the Association and different organizations over the years.

Robb Kissel and Matt Fuggi, Association members, also provided information to the Commission on what mountain biking is and they provided an overview of the work that had already been completed at the Park to develop the mountain bike trails.

III. Public Comment

The following members of the public spoke:

Barbara Fruin, Middletown Avenue
Joan Mazurek, Cloudland Road
Mary White, Summer Lane
Lillian Flodquist, Carriage Drive

Ann Lombardi, Board Member, Peter's Rock Association
Tom White, Summer Lane
Heidi Boettger, Beach Street
Glenn Vernes, New England Mountain Bike Association
Carolyn Marks, Beach Lane
William Marino, Quinnipiac Avenue
Michael Stringer, Grandview Terrace
Sally Buemi, Blossom Drive
Jennifer Brubacher, Middletown Avenue

Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works, reminded the Commission members that an amendment to the Town Ordinance would have to be approved through a Town Meeting and that the Commission can only make a recommendation to the Board of Selectman whether to proceed with the proposal or not. Ms. Sadosky advised of the steps that would need to be taken to begin the process of getting approval for installation of a mountain bike trail at the Peter's Rock Park.

Attorney Donofrio advised that the Peter's Rock Association did not have authority to approve and/or construct the mountain bike trails that have been completed at Peter's Rock Park to date. Attorney Donofrio advised of several steps that need to occur before the Commission can consider supporting an amendment to the Town Ordinance to allow for mountain biking and subsequently, to allow mountain biking at the Peter's Rock Park – a Town open space. Attorney Donofrio suggested that the Peter's Rock Park Association coordinate with town staff on any work, which relates to the removal of structures and trails that have already been installed.

Following further discussion among the Commission, Al Centone, Chair, made a motion not to support the proposed amendment of Town Ordinance Chapter 152, Section 152-1, L.. The motion was seconded by Frank Montagna. All were in favor.

IV. Adjournment:

Chairman Centone made a motion to Adjourn, seconded by Mary Lou Stamp. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 5:30pm