

Town of Victor Department of Parks and Recreation
Citizens' Advisory Committee

April 4, 2023

7:00 pm

Victor Parks and Rec. Bldg.

Attendees: Paul Moszak, Isaac Shehan, Gregg Richards, Mark Robbins, Drew Cusimano

Excused: Brian Emelson, Lisa Roberts, Elliotte Bowerman, Brad Bowers

Guests: Barbara Starr, Larry Fisher

New Amenities at Lehigh Crossing Park: Barbara Starr of VHT presented a proposal to add amenities to the Lehigh Crossing Park. Her proposal includes: adding logs to the pond to allow turtles, birds, etc. to perch, placement of 6 bird houses around the pond, planting of small native wetland shrubs, developing a small pollinator garden, and addition of signage to educate and explain the enhancements to the public. Barbara explained that some of the amenities would involve little or no cost (e.g. - logs for the pond are available within the park, old metal posts for older/deteriorated birdhouses can be “reused” for the new birdhouses) and she was also confident that volunteers would help to develop and maintain the new amenities. CAC Members felt that the proposed amenities would enhance the experience of visitors to Lehigh and recommend that, as a next step, Parks and Rec. meet on site with Barbara along with CAC member(s) and other interested VHT members to further discuss the proposal and begin to develop an implementation plan, as appropriate.

Additional Enhancements to Victor Parks: Larry Fisher presented a proposal consisting of 4 items. Work to be done with assistance of VHT:

- 1- Put up a purple marten house at Fisher Park in the field near the picnic table on the West side of Fishers Park.
- 2- Create openings along Auburn along the section between Railroad Mills and the bridge over the Irondequoit Creek to allow greater access to/viewing of the adjacent wetlands along that section.
- 3- Have volunteers selectively cut phragmites (invasive plants) in the wetlands adjacent to the pickleboard courts in Fishers Park.
- 4- Address a patch of Japanese Knotweed (another invasive plant) near the Nat Fisher bridge in Fishers Park at the intersection of Main St. and Wangum Rd. The control measure is to be determined. First inclination is to cut out last years growth and then cover the area with old tarps which Larry has.

Larry pointed out that his request was primarily to obtain permission from Parks and Recreation to initiate these projects on park property. CAC members felt that Larry's proposals were quite appropriate and would enhance the experience of users of Victor's parks. As such it is recommended that Brian follow up with Larry regarding his request.

Review/Approval of Feb. and March Minutes: The minutes for the 2/15 and 3/7 CAC Meetings were reviewed and approved.

Director's Report: Director's report was reviewed.

Future Funding for Parks and Rec.: Drew reported that he recently spoke with Jack regarding future funding and also participated in a recent Executive Session. Basically the sense at the Town level is to

continue to maintain funding sources for Parks and Rec. (i.e. - Parks and Rec. Trust Fund) but that other sources of funding (e.g. bonding) may be needed. Drew shared that at this time priority is being given to developing a new Highway Facility. With regard to potential bonding Drew offered that it may be advantageous to pair P&R bonding with other – e.g. Highway Dept. bonding. Drew also shared his thinking that the current Hwy. Property on Rawson Rd. may be an appropriate location for a future Rec. Building. Regarding the Rawson Rd. property Drew indicated that a primary advantage of this site (as compared to Paparone Pk.) would be its central and more accessible location. Drew added that while the Paparone location was appropriate for a shared Victor/Farmington facility there seems to be little interest in “partnering” on the Farmington side. Drew and CAC members acknowledged that the Rawson Rd. property may not be large enough for inclusion of adjacent outdoor athletic fields. Paul asked about the possibility of the property needing environmental remediation d/t possible contaminants stored there. Drew suggested that CAC members consider the possibility of this new location for a future rec center and that further discussion take place at future meetings. Drew will follow up by providing further information on the size of the Rawson Rd. property and its boundary lines.

Review and Input for “Must Have, Should Have, Could Have” list : The draft list was distributed to attendees but time did not allow for further discussion and the topic was tabled till the May meeting.

Dog Park Update: This was covered extensively in the Director's Report. Gregg added that construction will occur this yr. and that the park's opening is targeted for 4/24 after lawn has been established.

Bike Event Update: Mark reported that Mike Stockman has reached out to Kiwanis which has agreed to support the bike event with a donation and with volunteers! Mike also shared that plans are in place for the Sheriff's Dept. to conduct the bike rodeo portion of the event. Mark reported that NY State PTA has agreed to donate a number of helmets, snacks and bike swag to give to program participants. The planning group will meet again on 4/17.