Chairman Bill Drake called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

In attendance: Committee members Brent Brower, Liz Eckert, Rick Loh, Bill Drake, Keith Orrico, Sue Snyder, Nick Macri.

Public and RTM:

1. Alex Popp (Guest)
2. Alicia Shreders (Guest)
3. Andrew Boer (Guest)
4. Ashley Turner-Newi (Guest)
5. Bob Russel (Guest)
6. Bucky Putnam (Guest)
7. Butch Bozzuto
8. Cheryl Dunson (Guest)
9. David Roth (Guest)
10. David Wold (Guest)
11. Francia Alvarez (Guest)
12. Jim Knight (Guest)
13. John Bates (Guest)
14. John OBrien (Guest)
15. John Salib (Guest)
16. Joseph Kantorski (Guest)
17. Karen Fassuliotos
18. Kimberly Fiorello (Guest)
19. Leslieyager (Guest)
20. Lucia Jansen
21. Lucy von Brachel
22. Marc Ducret (Guest)
23. Michael Armstrong (Guest)
24. Mickey Kalinski (Guest)
25. peter fujitani (Guest)
26. Philip Dodson (Guest)
Mr. Drake indicated and the Committee members agreed that since the agenda item “Accessible pedestrian trail in the woods at Morlot Park” was a new topic, that it be moved later in the meeting and no vote would be taken today.

Update from Chairman: Mr. Drake indicated that the rink project pre-application was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission on Dec. 7, 2021. The Commission’s questions:

1. What is the right ice size surface?
2. Is ice time allocated to non-Greenwich users?
3. What environmental sustainability features are planned?
4. How will the surrounding neighborhood be affected?
5. How will parking be affected?

Mr. Macri noted the road connection from Western Junior Highway and the traffic impact on Western Junior Highway will need more details for P&Z.

Mr. Drake noted that Mr. Monelli and Mr. Siciliano could not participate in the meeting due to another meeting for Department Heads called at Town Hall. Mr. Drake noted Mr. Monelli is working on the answers P&Z is looking for and also is working on getting core samples taken in the area of the current rink to determine if significant ledge exists.

Mr. Drake then presented a simple design for a path system through the wooded area north of the current baseball field location. Various committee members
made comments...consensus is this is not something our committee should be concerning ourselves with at this time.

Public comments:

Alex Popp is opposed to a trail in the woods.

David Wold asked to see SLAM’s proposal in the current rink location.

Francia Alvarez asked about regrading the property to build the new rink.

Lucy von Brachel indicated the Committee should not redesign the park.

Syl Pecora indicated his view that there is rock ledge under the rink.

Andrew Boer broadcasts the GHS hockey games and indicated support for the project. There were 1500 people watching our broadcast of GHS hockey on Dec. 29, more than we possibly thought.

Jimmy Knight, a long time user at Hamill indicated support for the project and the improved safety of the proposed new entrance on Western Jr. Highway, and indicated support for the project and for preservation of the tree canopy.

Bob Russel said he’s strongly in favor of building a new Hamill. Mr. Russel is a long time coach at Hamill and was coach of GHS hockey for many years. He expressed the need for showers for users. He indicated that the hill of Sherman Ave. is dangerous and a bottleneck, and Western Jr. Highway would be preferred.

Mike Armstrong a resident and former skater and current board member of the Byram Vets would like to see the green space protected for the benefit of Byram.

Mr. Wold asked when we’ll know the cost of the access road.

Roz Nicastro said she finally drove Sherman Ave. and found it very steep.

Marc Ducret said from long experience skating at Hamill, he would like to see the project go forward, that the rink was not well designed and is no longer modern, and that Greenwich residents deserve a quality rink, and the better access on the new road. If a temporary rink is needed, it could go at GHS.
Stan Rumbough, a skater and Byram resident said that the main reason his hockey activity moved to Stamford was that Hamill had no showers, was shoddy and an embarrassment.

John O’Brien formerly played in the Hamill men’s league, said that the lack of showers and heat sent his group to Twin Rinks, Stamford. He would expect a men’s league to return to a new Hamill.

Bucky Putnam said through Rick Loh that Greenwich should bring a 1950s facility into the 21st century, that the new entry from Western Jr. Highway would correct the problematic access, and we should build the rink without interrupting the high school season. This would mean shift the location by swapping with Strazza field.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.