

## **Minutes of the Binney Park Advisory Committee – July 11, 2019**

**Attending:** Greg Kramer, Darrin Wigglesworth, Nancy Chapin, Linnea Stenberg, Joanne Messina, Lynne Davenport, Frank O’Gorman, Pete Uhry

**Absent:** Bill Rutherford, Lisa Beebe, and Mary Hull, Joseph Siciliano

**Special Guest:** Peter Grunow –Professional Landscaper

**Opening Discussion:** Peter Grunow was welcomed and presented his landscaping plan for the island in Binney Pond. His entry was deemed “conservative” and all attendees agreed it was appropriate for upgrading this site. Greg Kramer invited Peter to submit a cost proposal to purchase and plant the materials shown in his design. Peter G will include a cost to create the desired oval terrace to the south of the skating shelter when submitting his estimate to execute the island plan landscaping. The plan will be due to Greg in a matter of ten days or so.

Several different plants were suggested for inclusion in the design: Amsonia, Cinnamon and other fern varieties, Southern Wax Myrtle and Saururus Cemuus were named. Peter G will work with Bill Rutherford on the plans details of what will go where and how many plants in each location will be needed.

NOTE: The dates for the two JULY 23 events are now changed to Friday August 2.

**July 23- Praise for the Binney Park Crew:** Praise was given for the successful BPAC volunteer day, which worked well thanks to the coordination of the Binney Park staff with BPAC and citizen volunteers. All agreed Binney looks as good as it has in years in large part to the work of the Binney Park work staff under Jon Fasone’s direction. It was agreed the BPAC would host a pizza lunch for them on July 23. Greg will extend the invitation for noon. Those from the Committee able to attend should acknowledge they can do so to Nancy C and Peter U who are responsible for providing the lunch.

**July 23 -Loop Trail Walk and Design Session:** Following the pizza lunch, the Committee will use a detailed Binney Park map to make a specific plan for the loop trail...especially the portion along the east side of the creek bordering Binney. (Greg is to look for a map) Added landscaping features are to be identified so the Committee can move more quickly to accomplish this pathway when we decide to act on the plan.

**Northwest Corner:** Darrin discussed the removal of Barberry shrubs and the addition of a split rail fence in the NW corner of the park along Sound Beach. The fence would provide some safety against people falling into the water. The Committee discussed this idea, the removal of the Black-eyed Susans in the “native grass areas” and all agreed that the Committee should see the final plan for this fence and consider making a master plan for this area. Frank O’Gorman agreed to spearhead the effort to get a general scheme organized. Q? Did Martha Lyon address

this area in the Maser Plan? Q? What are the current plans for the Sound Beach Avenue Bridge by DPW?

**Inviting DPW:** DPW is to provide the BPAC an update: Nancy C. is to invite Jim Michel and his DPW associates to update BPAC on their plans for areas adjacent to Binney (Sound Beach and Wesskum Wood). Nancy will inquire about the maintenance pad to clean sediment from Binney Pond that seems to be missing. If available, they will attend the July 30 meeting at Town Hall.

**Other Comments and Ideas:** 1) When Darin W. returns from vacation, he will extend an offer to Wernert Construction to quote on the clubhouse terrace using a draft plan to be drawn by Darrin W. 2) Greg or Darrin will report on the level of funds available for the BPAC to use. The money donated by the Cricetti family and the Friends of Binney Park will be used in an appropriate manner to recognize these providers. A metal plaque outlining the history of Binney Park might be made and added at the skating shelter was discussed as an idea but no finalized. (Lisa Beebe had an email from the Cricetti family as one source for copy for a tablet). 3) Summer college students are going to execute the plantings on the west side of the Clubhouse that were designed by Jon Fasone and approved for installation by the Committee. 4) Garbage cans are now arriving and Mary Hull, Linnea, Pete Uhry and Darrin are to gather and determine where best to place them.... along with input from those who collect the garbage. Nancy Chapin observed that if collection cans do not exist, there are fewer problems with messes and illegal dumping of trash.

**Signs:** Linnea brought suggestions for signs she had obtained from Barbara Munson of Signcrafters in Stamford. Signcrafters did signage at Greenwich Point several years ago. The focal point for signs seems to be at Wesskum Wood and Sound Beach and at Sound Beach and Arch Street.... or near there. Final locations are yet to be decided.

**Future meeting dates:** The next formal Committee meeting is set for July 30 at Town Hall. (Need to check on the revised time). The idea to CHANGE THE TIME OF OUR MEETINGS was raised. It was suggested a Tuesday after lunch at 1:30pm be tried. Any BPAC member who has a problem with this time and day for future gatherings needs to alert Peter Uhry so we can be assured a time change is not a problem.

Respectfully submitted  
Pete Uhry  
Committee Co-chair

