

Open Space and Recreation advisory Committee
Police Station Community Room
August 11, 2021 @ 6:30pm

RECEIVED
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2021 SEP -9 PM 3: 59
Cheryl A. Sittler

In Attendance:

Amanda Barlow- vice chairperson
Carlos Lopes
Jeffery Amaral- Chairperson
Lynn Furtado- Clerk
Lu-Ann Souza-Executive Assistant
Robin Roche
Ellen Lima

Call to Order

Jeff calls the meeting to order at 6:32. Amanda Barlow second the motion

Opening Comments

Jeff informs the team that Lu-Ann will be at our meetings to update us about what the Town Hall has been working on regarding our committee. Jeff also refers to his email regarding people who need to go and visit the town clerk in order to be sworn in. Jeff informed the committee regarding an email that was forwarded to him by Lu-Ann regarding COASTSWEEP. COASTSWEEP is a statewide beach clean up sponsored by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management. Jeff is going to forward the email to the committee members with more information regarding the clean up event. Jeff wants the committee to look into it and see if we would like to host or participate in a clean up event.

Accept meeting Minutes

Jeff asks for a motion to accept minutes from the last meeting on July 21. Carlos makes the motion, Amanda seconds it and the vote passes unanimously.

- Ellen Lima asks a question regarding the public beach and boat ramp as she was not at the last meeting. Jeff informed Ellen that the public beach and boat ramp has been taken off of our future agendas. The town selectman saw the beach and boat ramp as issues that needed to be fixed quickly, so the Town Administration office is going to take over for a bit.

Presentation: Communications

- The communication team consists of Brian Almedia, Brian Miller and Carlos.
- Carlos will be the one who is presenting as Brian A and Brian M are not at the meeting today.
 - Brian A. task was to look into what the other towns in the surrounding area are using for communication tools.

- Carlos' task was to look for information on how the Town uses the communication tools they already have.
- Brain M's task was to look around town to see what kind of signs we are currently using.

-Carlos reported that the town hall has updated their websites and Lu-Ann said that she and her team is working on that. Carlos said that town hall has been using the Freetown Flash and reiterated that we can use the freetown flash, but they limit the number of flashes. Some additional ideas that the committee came up with was using a calendar on the committee's website. Create an email list, create yard signs, use the website to promote our events.

-Carlos also reports that Brian A. looked into the surrounding towns and reported that we are ahead of the communication tools.

-Brian A does have a powerpoint about their findings, and he will present at the next committee meeting.

Carlos brought up that he was at Hathaway park and there was an extended family gathering and they used the park to have a cookout and play volleyball. Carlos said that it was nice to see people using the park, and many people probably didn't know that they were able to do that.

Ellen brought up the Band who plays at the Bandstand on weekends. Ellen said that they should be promoting the event. Lu-Ann commented that they don't have any permits to play at the bandstand, but they would give them the permit if they went to the town hall. Ellen said that it was good to see people use the bandstand and people should be using it more.

Family Event Updates (Ellen Lima, Robin Roche, Amanda)

Ellen, Robin and Amanda have been talking about planning a Freetown Family Fun Day in order to create more of a community.

Some of the ideas that were discussed was

- Touch a truck event
- Baseball event Fire vs. Police
- Kids would be the target audience, but there would be things for everyone.
- Possibly Town committees, departments and local chapters would have information tables
 - Grange, tuesday club, special olympics, town hall, Art council, Historical society.
- We could have face paintings, bands, food trucks
- This event could happen at the central park.

Grant Updates/ General comments:

- The town of Freetown has a 20,000 grant for the bandstand. The Historical committee has already put in their thoughts and they would like it to look like the original photo. The

Building commissioner has already started to look into what needs to get done and already getting quotes on how much things will be

- A suggestion was made to invite the Historical committee chair and the building commissioner to the next OSRAC so that we can look over the information that was suggested and we can advise the selectman.
- Second grant is from SRPEDD (Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic development district). This grant was for \$25,000 and was given back in 2017. There are about \$4,000 left. Lu-Ann had reached out to SRPEDD and was connected to Bill. Bill the SRPEDD person who was connected to our area. He was delighted to hear that we have an advisory committee already established and he wants to go to our next meeting so that he can go over what was founded from the survey back in 2019.
 - Jeff will see if he is able to attend our next meeting.

Committee chair UPDATES-

Jeff wants us to look at the bandstand and see what we can do and use the park for.

Jeff also wants us to look at KRR and see what we can do and use the park for.

Board of selectman Beach/ Boat Ramp team update

The Boat Ramp and Beach working group met July 29th. The meeting consisted of Chief Carlton Abbott, Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee Chair Jeff Amaral and Executive Assistance Lu-Ann Souza.

- The Boat/Beach Ramp Working Group requests the Board of Selectmen to consider the following recommendations:
 - Implement use of the Park Mobile App to collect parking fees by credit card only at the Beach and Boat Ramp beginning Summer 2022.
 - Appoint the summer 2022 staff to be Parking Attendants who, once trained by the Chief of Police, will issue parking tickets at both locations.
 - Increase the day fee at both locations to \$15/car
 - Increase the pay rate for summer 2022 staff to \$15/hour

Our next committee task is to appoint someone from our committee to this working group.

At the last meeting we had three members who wanted to be considered (Brian M, Carlos and Robin). After the last meeting Robin and Brian M, both pulled their name out of the hat. So Carlos is now the representative on this working group meeting.

Partnerships

Throughout all of our meetings all of the members have talked about how there are a lot of organizations in our town that can be potential partners. Lynn wanted to take a few moments to have everyone brainstorm the organizations in our town and come up with their main contact person. Lynn will complete the chart below for the next meeting.

Organization	Contact Person	website/ contact info
East Freetown Grange		
Tuesday Club of Assonet		
Council on aging		
Girl Scouts		
Boy Scouts		
St Bernards- church		
United Church of Assonet		
East Freetown Congregational church		
St. John Newmans		
Cultural council		
Freetown Elementary PTA		
Historical society (committee)		
Historical commission		
Firework and Parade committee		
VFW		
Bristol Aggie		
Apponequet		
Bristol Plymouth		
Scholarship committee		

General Discussion/questions

Jeff brought up about the Tyler Trahan Memorial Scholarship and how we might look at possibly hosting some events in our parks around scholarships. Jeff also brought up that he would like to change our mission statement since we have found a new direction of our work. He wants to encompass everything that we have talked about. Everyone agreed that that was a good idea.

Committee member closing Comments

Ellen shared that she is glad that the beach and boat ramp are taken off of our plate. Ellen also suggested that if the Freetown Family Fun day works out we could possibly do an event like that every season, possibly at a different park. She also said our goal is to make the town a better place for our residents.

Carlos- we have narrowed down the scope of the committee which is great. Our main task is to let the people know what's going on in our town. He wants to make the community thrive. ``We are a community not just neighbors``. Collectively we are doing a great job.

Amanda- Excited for our next meeting with the Historical society or SRPEDD. Wants to focus on getting our name out there and suggests having a table at the Grange or other local events.

Follow up Actions

- Jeff will work on the Mission statement
- Everyone should look at the COASTSWEEP email that will be sent out
- Everyone should be on the lookout for information regarding SRPEED
- Lynn will work on the partnership part gathering contact information

Next meeting

- Next meeting: will be August 25th- at the police station,
 - We will have some guest

Motion to adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 was made by Ellen, Carlos second it and approved by a unanimous vote.

Minutes recorded by: Lynn Furtado- Committee Clerk