



**MILL VILLAGES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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MINUTES
MILL VILLAGES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 18, 2016

South Grafton Community House, 27 Main Street, South Grafton

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A meeting of the Mill Villages Advisory Committee was held on August, 18, 2016 in the South Grafton Community House.

Present from the Committee: Philip Gauthier, Chairman; Ruth Anderson, Vice Chair; Ann Morgan, Clerk; and Members Andrew Kjellberg and Kenneth Grew. Also present was Nick Bernat of Natura Landscaping.

Chairman Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Brick Program** Ms. Morgan noted that there were 67 bricks left to sell. Advertising and promoting the program needs to continue through the fall and the new round of orders will be submitted to the vendor in March 2017. Installation will take place in May. It was noted that Mr. Brian Turcotte had offered to install the next round of bricks for free as he had done the last time. The Committee agreed that it would be nice to offer another free brick to him in lieu of payment.

Motion to offer a free brick to Mr. Brian Turcotte in recognition for his offer to install the next round of bricks at the Memorial Plaza for free made by Mr. Grew, seconded by Mr. Kjellberg. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Park Entrance Sign Replacement Update** — Mr. Gauthier continues to speak with vendor who has promised that it would be done soon. He will check with the vendor again next week. Mr. Gauthier expressed his frustration over the vendor's continued stalling in delivering and installing the replacement sign as it has been many months.

- C. New Town Flag** Mr. Gauthier noted that Phil Johnson of the Parks & Cemeteries Department has a vendor that he uses for flags. He noted that this will be a custom flag that will have to withstand high winds. Mr. Gauthier will talk to him when Mr. Johnson returns from vacation.

D. Parking Lot Delineation — Request to Meet with the Board of Selectmen

The Committee reviewed correspondence received from the Town Administrator noting that the Selectmen had met and discussed the Committee's letter dated July 26, 2016. At their August 2, 2016 meeting the Selectmen voted to have the boulders removed from the Park and they requested a joint meeting of the two groups. The Committee discussed the following issues as it relates to this matter:

- The Selectmen were responding to a singular complaint from South Grafton resident Skip Michniewicz who didn't like the boulders for a number of reasons one of which is that it constricted his access to the back of the site where he likes to park and off load equipment and other items which he uses at the Park and the adjacent private property owned by Mr. Gene Bernat. It was noted that Mr. Michniewicz used to be a member of the Committee and quit a number of years ago. The Committee felt that Mr. Michniewicz should be invited to rejoin the Committee as there are several vacancies and then he could be part of the solution in the future.

Motion to send a letter to Mr. Michniewicz extending an invitation to join the Committee and to send the letter certified mail made by Mr. Grew, seconded by Ms. Morgan. Motion passed unanimously.

- The Committee expressed concern that the Selectmen had voted to reverse the Committee's action without discussing it with the Committee first. The Committee found it odd that one person could sway a Board to go against a Committee that they had appointed.
- It was noted that the Committee did not want to do anything that would jeopardize or undermine the good working relationship it has with Gene Bernat and his family who own the property that the Park sits on.
- Mr. Michniewicz continues to mow and cut vegetation as well as install benches and other outdoor furniture at the Park and on the adjacent property owned by Mr. Bernat. The work he does at the Park has not been permitted by any Board or Committee and may be in violation of environmental laws.
- The Committee reviewed the rationale for installing the boulders which was to reduce the various types of vandalism at the Park.
- It was noted that the joint meeting has been scheduled for September 20, 2016 and members of the Committee should plan to attend. Issues to be discussed with the Selectmen include collaborating with them on a long term plan to properly secure the park against vandalism while addressing the long term maintenance of the gardens, grass and rain garden. It was noted that the Committee would need to work to receive quotes for a qualified person to develop plans and estimates for the final elements to be installed at the Park. The Committee would work with the Selectmen to choose the proper vendor and seek advance approval before proceeding. Mr. Grew felt that the Committee should go to the meeting with cost figure for a potential study. Ms. Morgan disagreed noting that such an amount could not be estimated at this time and that such a motion was premature.

Motion to request an amount not to exceed \$8,500.00 from the Board of Selectmen to be used to retain the services of a professional landscape architect to develop a final plan for the Mill Villages Park to address security, maintenance and erosion control made by Mr. Grew, seconded by Mr. Kjellberg. Motion passed 3 — 2 with Ms. Morgan voting no and Ms. Anderson abstaining.

2. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Morgan noted that there were several items pending for discussion in the fall including next summer's programming for the Park and that the Committee will be asked soon to sponsor the community outreach meeting for the Riverwalk project.

3 ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Grew, seconded by Mr. Kjellberg. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Ann Morgan, Clerk

EXHIBITS

- Correspondence from the Town Administrator re: removal of boulders at Mill Villages Park; dated August 3, 2016; 1 page.
- Memorandum from the Town Administrator, Naming / Modifying of Town Property; dated August 8, 2016; 1 page.