

RECREATIONAL SPACE COMMITTEE SEPT. 30, 2025

Members & Guest present in person or on zoom: Lise Bofinger, Mary Olson, Maddy Bujold, Carla Gauthier, Nancy Stowell, and head of the selectboard, Dina Walker.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE LAST MEETING:

- Virtual meeting with Mat Henion of Maine Bureau of Parks & Land (MBP&L) re FY26 LWCF PEA grant- see Carla's summary of that meeting
- Site visit with Mat Henion of MBP&L re FY26 PEA grant- Mat met with Lise, Carla, Mike and Nancy to the tennis court area. He also checked out potential bridge/walkways that could connect the 3 abutting lots of One School St., the court area and the Weld Town Hall into one recreational complex.
- Acme Land Surveying gave an estimate to survey M25 L39 for \$3500-\$5,000. Mike will try to get a lower estimate from Loon Surveying.
- Dina and Lise explained about contributions to the town for this project. Donations to municipalities are tax-deductible if the contribution is made solely for a public purpose. Although local governments are not 501 (c)(3) charitable organizations, they are still "qualified organizations" under the IRS 170 © (3).

Mary will start compiling a list of prospective donors.

IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS:

- Organize an informational letter and meeting for all town residents within ¼ mile of current tennis courts. For many projects requiring a Permit by Rule from the DEP like ours, a completed Public Notice form must be mailed to all abutters and property owners within 1,000 feet of the proposed project.

This meeting and mention that letters will be sent should be publicized in the newspaper. Maybe get Donna Perry to write an article. Circulate information on town, library and "You know that you...." FB page. Nancy and Lise already drafted a notice letter last spring so Nancy will update. **Community Meeting date should be set!**

- Get land survey completed. Once we have an estimate for survey, we should submit a Historical/Schofield grant application and request money for this project. Nancy will submit the grant application since Lise is on the committee.
- Mary's list of potential donors and a formal "ask" letter.
- Total Project budget- Dina reminded us that the town budget committee starts their meetings in late Oct. Our committee will have to submit a relatively

complete budget for their approval and to be included in the 2026 town meeting warrant

Mary will contact Frank at Pine State Asphalt. Anyone else interested in securing prices for natural playscape, bridges and walkways? All project costs, pledges and in-kind services need to be gathered by the end of the year!!!!!!!

- At Dina's suggestion, Nancy will contact AVCOG to see if it offers any grants for project design.
- List of positives for the project to satisfy nay sayers for the project. Carla is our best PR person: "improving community space," adds value to the town," etc.
- Publicity: article in Weld Observer, newspaper article by Donna Perry, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy & Carla