

Recreational Space Committee Agenda 10/28/25
Multipurpose Room of Town Office Building; 5:30 pm

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Alliance with AVCOG

Lise and Nancy met virtually with the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), a regional planning agency in Western Maine that serves Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties. Discussion was on how AVCOG can assist our committee in our recreational space project. AVCOG shared their work with Jay, Livermore, and Livermore Falls, which was very impressive. Members of the AVCOG attending included were Shelley Kruszewski, Erica Bufkins and Ethan Vinson. The recreational committee, moving forward, will contact AVCOG with all the actual and potential funding sources. The work AVCOG does is a bit higher level but they will serve as inspiration and will assist in creating a map.

Free Visual Presentation Plan

The group discussed creating a visual presentation for the town without incurring significant costs. Lise explained that a company would create the visual for free after the survey is completed. Mary mentioned that Loon Surveying Company plans to conduct the survey in early November, and she will follow up to confirm the exact timeline. The group agreed that once the survey is done, they will approach the company to request the visual presentation.

Grant with Historical Society | Survey of Town Parcel

Nancy applied for and received a grant from the Weld Historical Society to fund a survey of the Town Land Parcel that includes the tennis courts. Loon Surveying out of Farmington has been contracted (\$1500) to survey the parcel (ACME quoted \$3500). Lise will complete a funding sources list for AVCOG. Once survey is done (end of November), possibly approach Pratts on the next steps.

Community Forum: Recreational Facility Project

The group discussed plans for a community forum about the recreational space project, agreeing to invite everyone rather than just nearby residents. They decided to aim for a public meeting in late January, after completing a survey by the end of November and finalizing visual materials. Mary and others supported including a playscape and bridge design in the project, with Lise noting they should "go big" and potentially phase the implementation to address community concerns.

Town Hall Drainage Bridge Project

The group discussed building a walking bridge from the town hall across a drainage area, with Lise suggesting they consult with Randy about the snowmobilers' use of telephone poles for crossing. They agreed that a drainage tube might be the best alternative, pending the results of a survey to determine land ownership.

Tennis Court and Recreational Planning

The tennis court bid came in at around \$200,000 including equipment and fencing. Once we have the survey results, we can proceed with planning the playscape. Lise suggested including questions about recreational preferences in the upcoming comprehensive plan survey, which is expected to be released in January. The group also discussed the need to gather data on the number of homeschoolers in the area to potentially secure funding for recreational spaces.

Community Space Planning Discussion

The community space would include playground equipment and picnic areas. We will hold a public meeting to gather input, though Lise noted that winter attendance might be lower than in summer. Carla suggested developing a list of anticipated questions to address at the meeting. The committee also discussed the need to present their plans positively, considering potential concerns about costs and changes to the area, focusing on gathering community support and addressing potential opposition. They agreed to emphasize that the project would be at no cost to the community and to target young families and children for support. The committee decided to hold an informational meeting and gather signatures before presenting the proposal at the March town meeting. They also discussed the possibility of fundraising but agreed to wait for town approval before approaching individuals and businesses for donations.

Possible Objections to the project: Sound and Money. Be clear on understanding the current space will go away and creating community socialization through a recreation and gathering site (a communitization towards a healthier lifestyle for everyone.) Note: the Skoolhouse Variety playground is private property and could change over time.

Next steps

- Lise: Send list of all funding sources to AVCOG
- Mary: Contact Bob Flanders at Loon Surveying to confirm timing for survey and follow up on when it will be done
- Mary: Send the Pine State Asphalt bid to Carla
- Lise: Combine Nancy's two letters together with a positive spin for public meeting notice
- Carla: Develop a list of questions that people are likely to ask at the public meeting
- Lise: Add mention in the letter that the committee's goal is to complete the project at no cost or minimal cost to the community
- Committee: Schedule public meeting/forum towards end of January
- Committee: Get list of families with kids from Julie to invite to public meeting

- Committee: Reach out to young mothers' group to get their input on what they want
- Committee: Get homeschooler numbers to support rationale for recreational space
- Lise: Put recreation-related questions into the comprehensive plan survey
- Committee: Gather pictures of natural playscapes to share with community
- Committee: Ask a few kids to speak at the public meeting about what they would like

Weld Multi-Use Space Committee Roster

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