

Center Harbor Parks Committee Meeting – May 16, 2011

Present: Liz Aquilla, Dennis Schofield, Sandra McClaskie, David Hughes, Bruce Skawinski, Duke Kline

Absent: Helen Heiner

The Parks Committee meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

The first order of business was to elect officers. Liz Aquilla was nominated for Chairman by Dennis Schofield and seconded by David Hughes. All in were in favor. Liz Aquilla was elected as Chairman of the Parks Committee. Dennis Schofield was nominated as Vice Chairman by David Hughes and seconded by Sandra McClaskie. All were in favor. Dennis Schofield was elected as Vice Chairman of the Parks Committee. Sandra McClaskie was nominated as Secretary of the Parks Committee by Liz Aquilla and seconded by Dennis Schofield. All were in favor. Sandra McClaskie was elected as Secretary of the Parks Committee.

David Hughes grew up next the park and shared some of the fond memories of what the park looked like during the 60' and 70's. Duke Kline, remembers the park during the 80's and 90's. Duke requested if there were any old photographs of the downtown area and Morrill Park it might be helpful during the process of renovating the park. David offered to contact Seth Stearns, Chair of the Historical Society of Center Harbor, to submit additional information and photographs of the downtown area and Morrill Park for consideration of the design layout.

David Hughes suggested that we meet with the Trustees of the Library to discuss what the library patrons would like to see in the Park. Dennis Schofield suggested that we try and make Morrill Park Wi-Fi. Dennis suggested installing a Wi-Fi antenna on the Library, which would enable wireless access in the park. David informed the committee that Helen Heiner has planted and cared for the gardens around the Library and Town Hall. Helen Heiner, a committee member, was absent from the meeting but we would like her to be involved with the planting of the gardens and would like her input of planting suggestions so that the gardens in Morrill Park blend with the gardens that she has planted around the Library and Town Hall.

It was decided that the Parks Committee would like a formal walk through the park with Jeff Haines, Road Dept. Agent and Keith Roberti, Parks Director. Liz will make arrangements to set up a meeting within the next two weeks. The Parks committee would like there input and suggestions.

Liz announced the Right to Know meeting scheduled for May 24, 2011 by the Selectman. It was suggested that the Parks Committee members all try to attend. We all confirmed that we would all attend the meeting.

Sandra McClaskie asked about the Tax status of accepting donations and donors to receive a

tax benefit for goods & service donations as well monetary donations. David Hughes confirmed that the Town could accept tax deductible donations. Sandra McClaskie also suggested that we look into a 501c3 non-profit and if the town could have one. David Hughes said that the Town has trust funds. It might be possible to set up a specific fund that will revitalize the park and also allow for future donations for the up keep of Morrill Park and for other designated areas within Center Harbor. We would have to submit an article to set up said Trust during Town Meeting next March. We will begin to look into other options available to the Parks Committee in order to accept charitable donations for the benefit of the restoration of Morrill Park. It was discussed that future areas of the Community of Center Harbor may need to be identified for restoration or other park like improvements to benefit the residents of Center Harbor.

Dennis Schofield submitted a survey and landscape plan of Morrill Park from various sources. A copy of each was distributed to the members. An informal walk through was conducted. David Hughes and Dennis Schofield pointed out the original walkways through the park by depressions in the ground and related landmarks. We also discussed the back tree line of the park, which has become over grown and should be cleaned out as it might create an area of the park that would offer a shaded area for future tables/benches. It was also suggested this clean up might make a good Boy Scout Project for both Civic Services and Forestry. Sandra McClaskie recorded a rough sketch of some of the ideas shared during the walk through. It was discussed that we should try and connect the Town Sidewalks and Library walkways along Plymouth Street with the Park Walkways. It was also discussed that current Town Sidewalks could be extended from the in front of the Library to Chase Circle which would assist handicap access from a possible Handicap Parking area as part of the park. In addition David Hughes had suggested that we consider adding a walkway between the Town Offices and the Library to the Park. It was agreed that it would make sense to try and create a walking path around the park with a central area around the Morrill Park Monument and have benches in the circle around the monument. It was also discussed to keep the main part of the park open and green, as a large lawn type area. There were discussions about the possibility of creating future pocket gardens in this central area and a brick paver area around the monument. This would give us the opportunity to recognize donors to the park with their names etched into the pavers as well donor sponsored pocket gardens. In addition there were discussions to add a few trees or low growing border bushes along Chase Road to add a buffer to the abutting neighborhood. Duke Kline asked about having handicapped parking somewhere around the park that would allow accessibility for handicapped. We identified an area next to the Brook's house would be an option to provide a few parking spaces designated as handicap.

Sandra McClaskie agreed to sketch out the preliminary considerations for Morrill Park. We will discuss at our next scheduled meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sandra McClaskie
5/20/11

