

Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 20, 2021



1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. and Parks, Trails and Open Space (PTOS) Committee members present were Robb Austin, Jared Coburn, Lois Ziemann, Angela Ferrelli and Sue Husch. Dave Jones, Judi Chamberlain, Erin Smith, and Nick Williams were absent. Also present was Town Manager Preston Neill.

2. Additions to Agenda

There were no additions or modifications to the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes from March 3, 2021 Meeting

Robb Austin made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2021, PTOS Committee meeting. Angela Ferrelli seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by members present.

Erin Smith arrived at the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Judi Chamberlain and Dave Jones arrive at the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

4. Update on Heritage Park Improvements Project

Preston updated the group on the status of the Heritage Park Improvements Project. The Project wrapped up at the end of June, well ahead of schedule. He explained that after an initial heavy watering schedule, the sod is now being watered only in the evening hours and according to the schedule depicted in the Town's Water Conservation and Management Plan.

Preston explained that in July, recommendations on the Implementation Plan for the Strategic Master Plan of the Ridgway Visitor Center and Heritage Park will be presented to the Town Council for approval. The Visitor Center-Heritage Park Advisory Committee met four times between February and June and formulated a series of recommendations for the Town Council to consider.

During this update, a question came up about native, drought-tolerant plantings. Another question came up about smart controllers to ensure sprinklers do not run when it is raining.

5. Update on Review of Town's Landscaping Regulations

Preston explained to the group that after a number of meetings on the subject, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the newly proposed landscaping regulations to the Town Council. The Town Council is slated to consider first reading of an ordinance adopting the new regulations at their August 11th meeting. The proposed modifications are intended to encourage water conservation or require low water usage landscaping or xeriscaping.

6. Bike Park Update

Preston told the group that the lease agreement between the Town and Matt McIsaac's non-profit organization, Ridgway Bike Park, was approved and executed in May. Matt is still in the process of fundraising and designing the park but, in the meantime, he has been set up to use a spigot connected to the Town's non-potable water system to begin prepping the site.

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7. Miscellaneous Items

Once the end of the agenda was reached a variety of topics were broached and briefly discussed. They are summarized below:

- Placement of a port-o-john somewhere near Clinton St.
- Baseball field in the Athletic Park.
- Mandatory Water Restrictions and reviewing data about water usage in the weeks or month after restrictions are implemented to pinpoint trends and understand impact of restrictions.
- Status of Lake Otonowanda and overall water supplies.
- Robb Austin announced that this would be his final meeting as a member of the PTOS Committee. Members thanked him for his service, leadership, and commitment to the Ridgway community.
- Dave Jones suggested the group take a tour of the Town's Water Treatment Plant to better understand where the Town's water comes from and the process to get it ready and into the Town's distribution system.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the PTOS Committee, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 6:41 p.m.