

Appendix G

Recreation Committee Report

July 16, 2002

Work Group Assignment

On July 2001, the Town Board appointed fifteen members of the community to the Comprehensive Plan Special Plan Board to continue to the public process which began with the Philipstown 2020 Forum in April 2001. As Board members, we were charged with the task of preparing the Town of Philipstown Comprehensive Plan with Joel Russel, planning consultant, who was retained by the Town Board.

Five separate subcommittees were formed to work on the different sections of the Comprehensive Plan.

Board members: Anita Pidala, Justine Bruno, Mike Phelan, and Jerry Rubino along with community resident Michael Gibbons, volunteered to work on the Recreation subcommittee.

Our charge was to present the Town's vision and goals for the future as it relates to Recreation and to consider the future needs of the Town Hall.

2020 Synthesis

The following consensus emerged from the Philipstown 2020 Synthesis as it relates to Recreation, "There is a strong desire for more community cohesion to pull together different segments of the community", and suggests ways in which might encourage this including one or more of the following forms: a town wide recreation facility, a facility for the arts, a senior center, a youth center and new town hall and other government buildings.

Historic Background

Town Hall

Town governmental buildings – Town Hall and VFW Hall.

Town programs of recreation administered by Philipstown Recreation Department.

The Town Hall, built in 1867 continues in use with only interior modifications and no major addition.

Recreation

Town of Philipstown – various program offerings

One Town field – property donated by Open Space Institute with some restrictions

Recreation Department currently utilizes various non-town spaces for its programs

Continental Village Park District

Fact Finding

Survey

In late March 2002 a survey was mailed to various community groups and organizations and then to the Philipstown community-at-large in an effort to understand what recreational opportunities town residents would like to encourage and might be willing to help subsidize.

475 surveys responses were completed and returned not including inaccurately completed responses. Residents were given the opportunity to vote on activities and facilities and give each vote a priority weighting from one to five. One being the least desirable and five being the most desirable.

In order of priority the following results were tallied:

- #1 Biking and Hiking trails
- #2 Community Center (Youth, Senior, Scouts, Arts)
- #3 Town Swimming Pool (Outdoor)
- #4 Town Swimming Pool (Indoor)
- #5 Skateboarding/ice rink
- #6 Tennis/Basketball courts
- #7 Boating/skiing
- #8 Additional Athletic Fields

Additional comments: summer camp, dog walk, walking/running tracks, teen center, evening activities for seniors, climbing structure, horse trails, outdoor concerts, horseshoe pits, health/fitness, nursery/daycare, before and after school program, ATV trails, boat access ramp to Hudson, squash court, fishing, toilets in town park, more space for hunting, soccer field and trips for adults.

Based on town wide recreational survey results, residents have expressed a need for focal points where young and old can play, where people can take leisurely strolls, a place to meet for casual conversations, or formal gatherings, a place to hold annual festivals, a place to satisfy a “quest for community in the form of a community center.

Outreach

Interviewed by News Channel 6 on April 18, 2002. Explained work group assignment and encouraged residents to complete and return survey.

Presented status report prior to Town Board Meeting and encouraged residents to participant in process.

Posted survey on Philipstown 20/20 Website

Press Releases published in local Putnam County News & Recorder providing status report of committee work.

Our committee met with:

Bill Marsh, President Philipstown Little League
Claudio Marzollo, Chairperson Philipstown Recreation Commission
Town Recreation Commission
John Kinnard, Boy Scouts
Suzann Timmer, Philipstown Recreation Department Director

Our committee spoke with:

Michelle Powers, Putnam County Planning Office
John Pilner, Putnam County Planning Office
Kate Dayton & Maureen Kazel, Before & After school program organizers

Our committee visited, researched and/or spoke with the following to gather information about their community centers: Mount Pleasant, Briarcliff Manor, Pleasantville, New Paltz, and Farmington, NM.

Data Collection/Report Review

Reviewed Town of Philipstown Town Hall Needs Assessment report prepared by Hudson Design, September 2000.

Reviewed study prepared by the RBA Group in association with Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates, Inc., Ferrandino & Associates Inc., June 2001 entitled, "Mid-Hudson South Region Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan for Westchester, Rockland & Putnam County.

Reviewed Master Plans for the Villages of Cold Spring and Nelsonville as they related to Recreational opportunities and Recreation fee structure.

Reviewed Town of Philipstown Master Plan adopted by the Philipstown Planning Board May 23, 1991, effective June 6, 1991 and amended July 8, 1993.

Inventory of hiking trails in the Town of Philipstown.

Reviewed Town of Philipstown 2002 Proposed Budget for Recreation

Studied map & inventory of undeveloped parcels in the Town & site visit scheduled

Existing Conditions

Parks/fields

The tree-shaded park on Route 9D between Haldane Street and Northern Avenue and Mayors Park, a developed ballfield on Fair Street, are both owned by the Village of Cold Spring.

The Route 9D fields across from the Haldane School were donated to Haldane for use by the Little League.

The Philipstown Little League finished two fields in 1988 on land leased next to the North Highlands firehouse.

The Waterfront Park at the foot of Main Street in Cold Spring is a three-acre site, which has a bandstand, small dock, a few benches and a lawn between the street and seawall and spectacular views of the Hudson. Because of its special character, residents and tourists frequently use it. The Cold Spring/Garrison Area Chamber of Commerce occasionally sponsors concerts at the bandstand on Sunday evenings.

Trails

Hiking opportunities exist at the following locations:

Clarence Fahnestock State Park, Boscobel Woodland Trail, Hudson Highlands State Park including: Appalachian Trail, Sugarloaf, Osborn Loop, Breakneck By-pass, Breakneck Ridge Trail, North Redoubt Trail, Arden Point, Little and Stony Point, Manitoga Trails, Canada Hill, Manitou Point Preserve Trails, Foundry Cove, and Saunders Farm.

The community characters map shows most of the major trails within the Town, although there are many smaller trails that are not shown. Virtually all of the major trails in Philipstown are on protected lands.

Bikeway

Route 9D is designated an official bikeway although; this highway apparently does not currently meet the NYS DOT bike standards.

Town Hall

Additional space needed. (See Town Hall Needs Assessment Report prepared by Hudson Design, 9/20/00.)

Summary of Findings & Trends

Recreation

- Need for one additional ball field
- Desire to have
 - 1) Additional Biking & Hiking Trails
 - 2) Community Center
 - 3) Town Swimming pool

- Need for additional space for conducting recreational programs

Opportunities & Constraints

Limited undeveloped parcels available for future expansion/development.

Economics

Opportunity to network and plan with existing organizations – Open Space Institute

Opportunity to plan and further develop existing Town Park

Recommendations

Encourage networking with existing facilities for use of already existing opportunities

Review ARTICLE II Residential Plat Recreation Fees (Adopted 2/5/87 as Res. #2-87)

Consider tax rate increase specifically for recreational purposes

Many of the residents were in favor of paying a fee for specific recreational services

Explore and seek outside sources of funding or grants for major local projects

Work with Putnam County Planning Division and NYS DOT to plan for encourage appropriate road improvements along Route 9D and to develop additional biking opportunities in the Town.

Work with local, regional and state Greenway representatives to improve trail and bike access.

Recognize and consider the implication of composite site solutions for new Town Hall, Community Center.

Review findings with other work groups.

Actively seek and acquire land directly for public parks and recreational facilities or use Towns' regulatory power to provide for recreational uses in a variety of ways.

Town Hall

Review, update and address Town Hall needs with intent to anticipate future local government organization and building space requirements.

Actively seek and acquire space and/or land for additional office/storage space needs.