

Growth Planning Committee
Minutes
February 16, 2021

Attendees: Dan Saunders, Chair, Jim Fitzgerald, Paul Hogan, Jim McMann, Mike Corsie,
Janet Powell

Absent: Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning and Development

Guests: Tom Morgan

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Dan Saunders, Chair
Tom presented the first draft of Chapter 14, Recreation and Cultural Resources.
The Chapter includes:

1. Inventory of recreational resources

Both passive and active recreational activities are outlined in detail in Table 14-1. The parks include Parson's Field, Cape Porpoise Firefighter's Park, Silas Perkins Park, Rotary Park at Beechwood, the Park at Crow Hill and the Village Green. Beaches listed are Breakwater Beach, Colony Beach, and Goose Rocks Beach. Other recreational facilities are the Recreation Building/Community Room, Consolidated School and the Grist Mill.

2. Conservation Land and Open Space

Over 2,356 acres of land are permanently protected/Approximately 71% of conservation land is held by the KCT/The town owns 358 acres/ offers Island camping/ Meadow Woods Preserve with Dog Park/ trail maintenance/continues to support additional land acquisition

3. Cultural Facilities

Cape Porpoise Town Library, Church on the Cape (United Methodist), First Congregational Church, Kennebunkport Historical Society, Graves Memorial Library, Saint Ann's Episcopal Church, Seashore Trolley Museum, South Congregational Church UCC, Village Baptist Church.

4. Halls and Meeting Rooms include the American Legion Hall, Atlantic Hall, Consolidated School Gymnasium, Police Station Meeting Room, Graves Library Community Room, South Congregational Community House, South Congregational Church UCC, the Village Fire Station Meeting Room

5. Festivals and Events include Christmas Prelude, Chalk the Port, Winterfest, Paint the Town Red (February) Maine Restaurant Week, Memorial Day Parade, Kennebunkport Food and Wine Fest, Launch Maritime Festival, George H.W. Bush Celebrity Golf Classic, Second Friday Art Walks, Paddle Battle on the Kennebunk River.

6. Recreation Department Programming

The Rec Department includes a broad range of programs for all ages, including a Shade Tree Tour, COVID-friendly remote activities, after school and summer camp programs.

7. Management

There are 2 full time and 3 part time staff who run the programs, assisted by numerous volunteers. A detailed website offers full descriptions of on-going activities and special events sponsored by the department.

8. Budget

Included in the CP are the Recreation and Culture Budgets for the Recreation Department, Graves Library, CP Library, Parson's Way, the Goose Rocks Beach Committee and miscellaneous agencies for the fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

9. Projects, Improvements and Long-Term Priorities

Recently completed are the Parks and Recreational Building and Ice Rink. Currently in the planning stages are the installation of a Pickleball Court at Parson's Field, tennis court improvements and the addition of multi-use opportunities for roller hockey, a splash pad and live music events.

10. 2018 Survey Input earns KPT high scores as a great place to live. Abundant advantages include rural character, access to great beaches and the ocean, hiking trails, a picturesque downtown, peace and quiet, a great library, conservation properties and Consolidated School.

Input included the questions, "Should the Rec budget include more Community Service officers and/ patrol in the marshes?" Also mentioned "a dwindling public access to beaches and River" and "concern over impact of increased housing density and campsites."

11. Level of Service

Paul voiced concern and others agreed that using the State's metrics to determine the number of acres of parkland per 1,000 year-round residents results in an inaccurate accounting of recreational space available in KPT. Using their formula, which excludes beaches and conservation lands, only the parks listed as Parson's Field, CP Firefighter's Park, Silas Perkins Park, Rotary Park and the Park at Crow Hill are included in the equation. Tom agreed that 4.4 acres per 1,000 year-round residents underrepresents the town's access to parkland and would be taken under advisement.

12. Climate Change Impacts include increased temperature (heat related illness, impact to infrastructure, less snow) sea level rise (flooding and beach access) and increased storm events (stormwater management).

Chapter 208- State Requirements

State Goal - to promote and protect the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities to all Maine citizens, including surface waters.

A recurring question discussed by the committee regarding recreational activities is should we have in place a strategy that deals with public access to water for boats. To be revisited..

Mini Survey #2 will be sent through town and community groups' email subscription lists

We will remind survey participants that Survey 1 is still available and encourage them to participate in it if they have not already done so. Suggested questions...

1. Are there locations in town that pose a hazard for walking and bike riding? If so, where?
2. Where would you like to see more dedicated paths for bike riding and walking?

Tom and Liz will work on these two questions in order to elicit more suggestions from participants regarding what they envision for increased recreational and cultural access.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Next meeting, Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

Discussion: **Regional Coordination Chapter 17**