

Loudon Recreation Park Development Meeting
January 6, 2009

In attendance: Jeffery Burr, Sr, LeeAnn Childress, Gary Tasker, Nick and Jen Pfeifer, Fred Neergaard, John Zudell, Mike Labonte, Mike Milligan, Amanda Masse, Kim Therrien, and Alicia Grimaldi

Alicia Grimaldi, Loudon Recreation Chair began the meeting with introduction and history of the initiation of this project. The vision of the Loudon Recreation Committee is to expand upon the existing recreational area to provide the community more opportunities for recreation to include walking paths, nature trails, picnic areas, a skating rink, and extra parking. There is a multitude of possibilities, however to begin our focus is on an ice skating rink, preferably a year round rink where in the summer months it could be used for a roller blade rink. The location chosen is behind the existing ball field, which would allow more room for parking and nature trails.

This is the beginning planning stages and a work group needs to be formed. To develop a plan such as this factors to consider would be funding as well as proposals for construction, site work, concrete work, electrical, paving, landscape, drainage and water would need to be established.

At this time discussion began and each attendee introduced themselves and shared ideas.

Jeff Burr suggested including walkways around the area as a nature walk. Scouts perhaps could do a project with nature trails. Also Merrimack County Corrections may be a possibility to help with necessary work.

Gary Tasker asked if donations would go in to a general fund or could it be designated to the project. It is the understanding of the committee donations could go toward the project if identified as such, but will check with town officials. Gary Tasker also shared in order to bring to the town for a warrant article the proposal would need at least 25 signatures. Gary serves on the planning board and was involved in the Village Planning Committee. One of the ideas of the Village Planning Committee was a nature trail and he may still have the plans on that. It may be a lot of \$ to do a paved walking path, gravel may be better.

John Zudell and Fred Neergard from the Speedway have been involved in these types of projects and can bring their expertise to the table. Fred has built a rink in MA similar to what we are proposing. 10 years later, he has rebuilt using a coil system which is costly however warns to plan for the future.

It was discussed that having a rink exposed to nature can be ruined by snow. Covering, such as a pavilion would be very helpful. This would be multipurpose. The town, recreation committee, LYAA could use this for many events that needed protection from the elements.

Much discussion was had about building a structure using concrete and later down the road having to tear it up to expand. The end question was should we start without concrete using earth or gravel and having a covering such as a pavilion the priority.

Question raised could you have a concession stand to help support funding of the project?

Mike Milligan shared there are different types of concrete to be considered if we do go with this type of structure to ensure proper setting, stability, etc. Do we want to go with concrete or do we want to use an earth structure?

Who is are audience? How many kids, families, community members would be using the rink? It was decided our next meeting on February 2nd at 6:30pm at the Maxfield Public Library, we would create a survey to inquire within the community what they would want for a rink to include useage, size, etc. Come with your ideas!

Maintenance of the structure is always a concern. This should be included in our survey. Lee Ann Childress will discuss with her husband to assist with snow blowing. We would need a core of volunteers.

Size of a rink was discussed. What has been researched seems very large. The AttleBoro rink is 30W and 70 Long, and official Olympic rink is 200X98, our last years rink was approximated at 40X72. This will be included in the survey.

A site walk will take place on January 17th at 9am, meeting at the Recreation Field Parking lot to walk the back of the recreation field. Alicia will get the official site map from Dave Rice, Road Agent and invite him to attend. Amanda Masse will put in the Concord Monitor to invite those in the community interested in walking the site.

It was suggested if we were using the earth as a structure for the rink and a pavilion would the small corner ball field that is already level be an better place to construct a rink. Again, this would be multipurpose and could be used for concerts, practices, picnicking, etc. Alicia will check with Rick Broider, LYAA to it's possibilities.

Survey to be completed by town meeting and will be distributed along with flyers.

Next meeting 2/2/09 at 6:30 at the Maxfield Public Library.
Site Walk 1/17/09 at 9am to begin at the Rec Field Parking Lot
Snow date for site walk on 1/24/09