Village Core Meeting
June 10, 2008
5:00 pm

Attendees: John Hettinger, Marilyn Sanderson, Stan Duda, Susan C, Kareen Hamilton, Rick Russack, (later) Paul Kasianchuk

Chairman Hettinger reviewed the current status of the Riverfront Park Trail. We were all set to start selective clearing to put in this western section of the Riverfront Park Trail. Chairman Hettinger had walked the trail with Steve LaFrance and Mike Sabourin to ensure the proper delineation of wetlands. However during this walk-thru, Mr. LaFrance questioned the proximity of the trail to the river. In order to clarify new requirements specified by the Shoreland Protection Act. Mr. LaFrance contacted DES. He asked if an 8-foot trail constructed of ¾ inch hard pack could be placed within the 50-foot setback. The DES responded that no work was permitted within 50 feet of the River. Their reply indicated that placement within the 50 foot setback would only be possible by the lagoons due to topography and only after obtaining a waiver. Mr. LaFrance also asked about "vested interest", but the DES response indicated that it was too late for that. His third question was that if the work starts prior to July 1, does the town need a permit? They said no fee was required, but we would need a permit. Based on this response from the DES Mr. LaFrance recommended to Chairman Hettinger that he re-flag and move the trail to at least 60 feet from river.

Upon receiving the information from Mr. LaFrance, Chairman Hettinger felt it necessary to notify InnSeasons not to start any work on the trail. Ted Sutton had told Chairman Hettinger that he was working on an exemption. It sounded like part of Lincoln could receive this, but not all of town. Chairman Hettinger said he would call Paul Kasianchuk or Dennis Ducharme, as he had expected them to be here tonight. Marilyn Sanderson also suggested going the political route; speaking to Paul Hodes, Edmond Gionet, etc.

Rick Russack asked how many trees would have to come down, but was told not that many. Stan Duda asked if we could still make the path and said that we need to show that we are not taking many trees down and are laying out a path to avoid as many as possible. Chairman Hettinger also suggested checking out the website mentioned in the e-mail he passed out from Steve LaFrance. Basically 20% of what's growing in the 50 feet is the maximum one could take down. Chairman Hettinger and Mr. Duda reviewed the basal area calculations again. Basically, one needs a minimum of 50 points in each 50x50 point segment. (At a 4.5-foot height, a 1-6" width tree is worth 1 point, 6-12" width = 5 points, and 12+" width = 10 points).

In the meantime, Chairman Hettinger sectioned out the Riverfront Park Trail's western portion into 11 pieces and calculated the distance from the river possible in each. (See attached handout.) The biggest problem areas are by the Rivergreen, where we'd be in the swim club (south and west of the condo-hotel), and south of the treatment ponds. Chairman Hettinger did mention the issue to Representative Edmond Gionet, who said he

would be glad to help, but Chairman Hettinger asked Representative Gionet to hold off doing anything until he has had a chance to talk with Ted Sutton.

Marilyn Sanderson sent a second letter to DRED asking for the permission letter needed from Jennifer Codispoti. It seems to be an unusual delay, but that may be due to the necessity of switching project administrators.

Mr. Russack asked Mr. Duda if we would earn any points for planting new trees, but Mr. Duda said he would need to check the regulations. Mr. Russack also asked about planting in the park. Mr. Russack said that the historical society could "sell" a "plant a tree" program. Mr. Duda described how along the JE Henry Trail, South Peak is only allowed to do maintenance. He said he didn't think we had something that was insurmountable.

Chairman Hettinger asked Mr. Duda who they deal with at DES. Mr. Duda said they met with 2 women, one for new regulations and one for basal area (tree growth), but he couldn't remember their names off the top of his head. The Shoreland Protection Act is a federal regulation handled by the state. He found them to be reasonable and that they will try to see how they can make your project work within the regulation.

Chairman Hettinger asked if the Town wants to use Horizons Engineering for help on this portion of the project, as Hoyle Tanner Associates is already working on the InnSeasons portion of property and may be most familiar with that section.

Marilyn Sanderson is still working on grants, currently concentrating on NHEC and Ponds.

Mr. Russack asked Mr. Duda more about "what is vested", as that seems to be a fuzzy concept. South Peak already had much money and time invested, but hadn't started construction yet. Mr. Duda described how the JE Henry trail goes in and out of the riparian zone, which is roughly 150 feet from river, but due to the Dubois agreement and that riparian zone, that trail must be left natural and can only be maintained.

Chairman Hettinger mentioned that Mike Yarnell told him after the last meeting that he rides his mountain bike on a regular basis on the portion of the JE Henry trail that continues west of the Cooper Memorial Bridge to Route 175. (It was originally thought that the section in question had grown over through the years and would have to be completely re-cleared to make useable again). Mike Yarnell will call Chairman Hettinger when he gets a chance to set up a date and time to show him the location of the trail.

The next meeting is set for June 24th at 5:00 pm.