

Fuller Brook Park Committee

Board Room, Department of Public Works Building, 20 Municipal Way
Town of Wellesley

Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2017

Attending: Diane Campbell, Chair; Members Raina McManus, Paul Criswell, Kurt Somerville; Town Staff Brandon Schmitt and Dave Hickey, Project Manager Peter Jackson.

Citizen Speak: No one was present from the public.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the meeting of November 18, 2016 were unanimously approved.

Town Meeting Report: Staff is working on writing the Fuller Brook Park entry for the Advisory Report to Annual Town Meeting. It will be distributed to the Committee for comments when complete.

Construction Update: Peter Jackson reported "hard construction" was completed January 4, 2017.

Peter is working with the Contractor on the final "punch list" for the project.

The Cottage Street drainage work will be in progress through the spring and summer of 2017. A meeting with the police will take place to discuss a roadwork schedule for that project.

The path connection from Cottage Street to Dover Road has been completed.

New stairs have been added at Tappan Street and Winthrop Road. New plantings will be added to these areas in the spring.

New drains have been added at the dead ends of Appleby, Benton, Tappan and Winthrop roads. Manholes have been installed between drains for storm-water management, safety, and water quality improvements. Old curbing was replaced and new curbing was added to keep water on the road and off of the path. The road ends were also crowned for better drainage.

Handicapped detectors have been added at Leighton Road. The staging area has been cleaned up and curbing has been added to keep parking off of the park areas. Landscape restoration will continue in the spring.

The staging area by Grove Street has also been cleaned out with landscape restoration planned for spring.

Acknowledgement of Community Preservation Act funding of Fuller Brook Park: Peter estimated the costs for engraving two existing granite benches, (one near Grove Street and the other near Skating Pond), and creating two customized plaques with inscriptions would be approximately \$4,200.

Motion made and approved to allow an expenditure of up to \$5,000 for engraving of existing granite benches at Skating Pond and Grove Street, and purchase of engraved plaques, subject to design details to be worked out by the Natural Resources Commission and Project Manager Peter Jackson.

Walking Path Surface: Peter Jackson stated that none of the path has been accepted as complete and that the contractor is still responsible for delivering an acceptable surface. This spring, after a good rain, Peter will walk the path "end to end" with the contractor to identify puddles, uneven surfaces, etc., which will need to be corrected prior to acceptance. Some residents are still finding the Brook to Cottage Street section of the path coarser than the rest of the path. A street sweeper was brought in and removed 90% of the coarse material.

What is there now does meet the “firm and stable” ADA standards. However, the contractor is still engaged and after the winter the path and material will be reassessed. This open issue will be reviewed again in the spring.

The path surface should last for 10 to 20 years. However, annual spring maintenance will always be required to even the path, fill small potholes, etc., similar to that of street work.

319 Grant Update: The draft final report has been submitted; once finalized the last payment of \$30,000 will be released to the Town.

Magazine Article on Fuller Brook Park: Diane and Brandon were interviewed, and Peter walked path, with the writer from *Wellesley Weston Magazine*. Many nice photos were taken. The article is expected in the spring edition.

Post Construction Maintenance: The ongoing maintenance and need for a full-time park supervisor for Fuller Brook Park has been a topic discussion at recent Advisory meetings. Paul Criswell and Frank Pinto, Chair of Advisory, will meet to discuss.

Education, Outreach and Volunteer Opportunities: The park continues to be used by more and more people. Michelle West of Horsley Witten will be leading a walking tour of Fuller Brook Park for the Ecological Landscape Association in the spring, which will include members from across Massachusetts. A Mother-Daughter group is planning to do a spring cleanup of wooded areas and banks – weather permitting.

There is some interest in town at making modifications to the ‘Flume’ near Grove Street to improve fish passage. The Charles River Watershed Association has information on installing fish ladders should a group wish to sponsor that project.

Next meeting of the Fuller Brook Park Committee will be held on a Friday morning in March or April.

Respectfully submitted,

Raina C. McManus
Fuller Brook Park Committee Member
Wellesley Natural Resources Commission