

ISLAND PATH COMMITTEE MEETING
May 1, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Selectman Bonnie Searle at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mrs. Ellen Goethel, Ms. Bonnie Thimble, Mr. Peter Tilton Jr., Mr. Mike McDermott, Mr. Jim Keefe and Mr. David Joaquin.

The Minutes of April 17, 2002 were reviewed. Mrs. Goethel motioned to accept the Minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Tilton. With Mr. Keefe abstaining, all were in favor. The Minutes of May 22, 2002 were distributed for review to be voted on at the June 19th, 2002 Meeting.

A. CLEAN UP DAY

The notice was put in the Hampton Union stating Saturday, May 4, 2002 was the date for clean up starting at 9:00 a.m. In checking with the Department of Public Works, there will be no problem in taking trash to the landfill. The DPW will provide bags but not gloves. The clean up will consist of surface trash only.

B. Parking/Security

Ms. Searle asked the Committee Members to each give their thoughts on the parking. Starting with Ms. Searle, she stated there should be parking on site (regular and handicapped). The Town can enforce parking restrictions. Mr. Joaquin was against parking at the site but agreed with Mrs. Goethel about the Town Parking Lot use. Also he was in favor of park & walk from the Town Lot.. Mrs. Goethel would like at least one handicapped space on site or 3 regular spaces with possibly 2 handicapped spaces. Also to have parking signs at the beginning of Island Path. Mr. Tilton stated that the public has the right to enjoy the project and that there should be parking of some type there. Parking should also be from dawn to dusk. Ms. Thimble stated that the site needs the parking and agrees with Mr. Tilton. Mr. McDermott stated that nature should have the area and to use the Town Parking Lot. Mr. Keefe stated one handicapped and no turnaround. A discussion ensued following the opening comments. The suggestions ranged from no parking and use of the Town Lot (4 spaces and 1 handicapped), 2 regular and 2 handicapped (pull in on site), 5 spaces with turnaround and 1 handicapped, 3 turnaround with 1 handicapped, and 1 handicapped and turnaround. The Selectmen will be asked about buses in the Town Lot. After a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of each of these suggestions, Mrs. Goethel will sum up for the next meeting on May 22, 2002.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Charles Preston spoke in favor of the project. He is in favor of a small parking area with maybe using a sticker system for a small fee. The fee could be used for future improvements for landscaping, bird houses, etc. Public parking should be allowed for two reasons: the young and the elderly. Mr. Preston fully supports the Conservation Commission in this endeavor. Mr. Preston stated "the Conservation Commission in my opinion is giving back to nature with its goal to educate and improve this site." "The parking decision should be tried and revisited after a trial run". "Buses should be allowed to drop off and pick up children for safety reasons". "In respect to neighbors, busing should be limited both in numbers and time of day and should be approved by the Conservation Commission".

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C. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Cont)

Deborah Wilson, 33 Highland Ave., agrees with the project.

Mr. Fred Palazzolo agreed with Mr. Preston and wants more than 1 handicapped space on site.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. meeting in the Town Office Meeting Room.

Mr. Mike McDermott motioned to adjourn at 8:40, seconded by Mrs. Goethel. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Sue Launi
Conservation Commission Secretary