

# Skatepark Site Selection Committee Minutes

Thursday April 10, 2014

**Meeting called to order:** 5:15 P.M.

**Members present:** Joe Bushey, Marty Fitzgerald, Betsy Gentile, Elizabeth McLouglin, Jacob Roberts, Dan Sontag, Andrea Watkins

**Others present (at one or more locations):** Carol Lolatte, Andrew Clark, Jeff Clark, Melissa Clark, Scott Dixon, Les Montgomery, George Moryadas, Reinaldo Palencia, Bill Penniman, Kayla Rice, Tom Robertson, Jane Rosser, Simrin Socci, Francine Vallario, Ken Vitale, Howard Weiss-Tisman, Linda Whelihan, Patty Fitzgerald

## Agenda:

### 1. 5:15 P.M. Site Visit Elliot Street Park

Carol Lolatte distributed grading sheets and committee members were directed to begin rating the site criteria while observing the park, giving scores for each item of 1 (low) to 5 (high). A committee member, Joe Bushey, made some measurements. Some members of the public asked questions and made comments to Carol and some members of the committee.

### 2. Recess

### 3. 5:45 P.M. Site Visit Elm Street Parking Lot

Committee members again used grading sheets to score their criteria as applied to the Elm Street Parking Lot and members of the public again viewed the site, posed questions and interacted with committee members. Joe Bushey took measurements.

### 4. Recess

### 5. 6:15 P.M. Meeting Gibson Aiken Center – 207 Main St.

### 6. Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** Approve minutes from April 3, 2014 meeting

**Vote:** Motion carried

**Resolved:** Minutes from the meeting April 3, 2014 approved without modification

### 7. Public Input via E-Mail – [skateparkideas@brattleboro.org](mailto:skateparkideas@brattleboro.org)

The three e-mails received (one concerning the roof of the parking garage and two concerning criteria suggestions from Peter Whitely and Adam Hubbard) were reviewed and discussed by the committee.

### 8. Report on Act250 Properties (Cedar St.)

Andrea Watkins reported that she had spoken with Bob Allen from the Windham Foundation who will not have an answer about the possibility of a spot until the end of April when he takes it to his board. Any land available for a skatepark could not interfere in any way with the ski jump area. It was decided to leave the site on the potential sites list at this time.

### 9. Review Site Visits

It was felt that too much time had been allotted for grading the sites. Each member will keep their grading results until all the sites have been visited and graded. Viewing the sites alone versus as a

group was discussed. Committee members agreed that going as a group allowed them to get input from the public. It was suggested that a map of each site would be beneficial for defining the exact area being viewed and will be provided for remaining visits. The amount of discussion to take place prior to grading a site was explored. It was decided that factual information that might affect the grading of certain criteria would be given to the group, mainly by Carol, but opinions would not be shared prior to grading.

At this point some members of the public expressed concerns over drug and alcohol use near the areas viewed this evening. A few committee members commented that the area already hosts several venues for positive youth activities and that a skatepark in the area might be yet another way to bring about further improvement.

**10. Next Meeting Wednesday April 16, at 5:15 P.M.**

The committee will meet at BUHS/BAMS at 5:15 P.M. for their first site visit followed by viewing the Fort Dummer Field. At 5:45 PM they will view the Cedar Street location and at 6:00 PM the Common. They will then go to the Gibson-Aiken Center at 6:15 P.M. to finish the meeting. Site visits will happen rain or shine.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 29 and will include site visits to Living Memorial Park and the Crowell Lot. Times to be determined.

**11. Other business: None**

**Meeting Adjourned: 6:59 P.M.**

**Submitted by Patty Fitzgerald**