

Executive Summary

Town of Brattleboro Skate Park Site Selection Committee

June 9, 2014

The Selectboard at their meeting on Tuesday November 5, 2013th, created the Skatepark Site Selection Committee.

The following seven interested citizens were chosen to participate in this process by the Brattleboro Selectboard: Joe Bushey, Jacob Roberts, Betsy Gentile, Elizabeth McLoughlin, Martin Fitzgerald, Dan Sontag and Andrea Watkins.

Selectboard Chair David Gartenstein encouraged interested citizens who were not selected to continue to provide input to the committee at their upcoming meetings.

The Recreation & Parks Director Carol LoLatte served as lead staff member to support the Committee and also engaged staff from other Town departments as needed.

The charge of the Committee was to identify and evaluate sites within the community that would be appropriate for a skatepark. The Committee was charged to establish criteria and rank each site setting through weighted values for each criteria.

A total of 14 meetings were held within this six month timeframe. All meetings were open meetings, warned by public notice and all public communication (emails, etc) were heard and discussed. Site visits were also open meetings. All meeting minutes were also public information, found on the Town website.

The first meeting was held on Wednesday, December 4th at the Gibson Aiken Center. The parameters for the selection committee were discussed and homework given to review documents from various skate park groups including BASIC, Tony Hawk Foundation, and Recreation and Parks department. At the second meeting, Betsy Gentile was elected chair, Elizabeth McLoughlin vice chair and Patty Fitzgerald, a member of the public, generously volunteered to be the secretary.

Many meetings were held to determine ranking criteria. The general heading of Cost, Size, Location, Multi-Use and Topography were chosen. The meetings that followed carefully honed the major criteria and their corresponding categories. Ranking systems were determined, potential public and private sites, from an original total of 41 sites, were vetted, and a final group of 10 sites were visited by the committee for personal ranking in accordance with the aforementioned criteria. From that ranking, four final sites were selected as viable sites for a 6,500 square foot skate park. The Committee determined final ranking of all sites during an open meeting.

These sites and their final rankings, along with the pros and cons of each, are presented. (EM will present these findings as well?)

The Brattleboro Recreation and Parks Board will review this information and make their determination, as a board, which they will forward to the Selectboard.