

Fairgrounds Minutes February 6, 2024

Present: Greg L. Howard, Andy, Steve, Jerry, Greg D., Jackie, Elaine, on Zoom Rob
Absent: Sean, Hannah, Kathy
Guest: Don, Bruce

Minutes of Jan 11, 2024 Approved

I. Follow -Up of Jan 17, 2024 Public Meeting

Greg D. expressed his appreciation for all the work of the committee members did to prepare an excellent presentation. Comments from that meeting were recorded and reviewed by the committee. None of the comments necessitate revisions from Regina.

II. Cost Update

Jerry and Eric met with Mainland Engineering to get some additional cost estimates. The initial cost estimate was for \$778,000. To this add:

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|---|----------|
| • Cost of electric | \$50,000 |
| • Cost of drilling well and providing water service, fountain | \$20,000 |
| • Outside construction supervisor | ? |
| • Paving the parking lot | ? |
| • Contingency | 10 – 15% |

The budget for the project will be split out into individual costs:

Engineering
Utilities
Parking lot paving
Field improvements
Reworking trails
Basketball court
Plantings
Construction management

III. Fundraising

A Fundraising Committee will be organized that will include Jerry, Hannah, Sean, Greg L, and Rob. Additional volunteers will be solicited.

Jerry and Eric have met with State administrator for the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Although this is a competitive grant, Jerry is optimistic that this project is aligned to this grant program. The grant manager indicated that work on the application should begin soon since proposals are due the end of June and several steps are required before then. If the application is approved we would learn this around August but we should not expect to get the federal money until sometime 2025. Construction may begin before then.

Greg L has put in an application to the Maine National Guard. They will have to do a site visit to see if and when they could do some of the ground work. Work by the National Guard can be used as part of the matching funds for the LWCF grant.

Rob commented that it would best if we can make this happen sometime in 2025. He also commented that we may want to hire a grant writing professional to seek additional grants.

Don was asked how long the town permitting process might take. He said it would depend upon specifics, particularly wetland impacts, but 2 – 3 months minimum.

Summary of Sequence of Events:

1. Town Meeting to present warrants to the public
2. June Town Meeting Vote
3. End of June – submit LWCF application
4. Notification of LWCF award – end of August
5. Ongoing fundraising, planning, permitting
6. Construction – hopefully summer of 2025

Future Role of the Working Group:

- Participation in Warrant meeting before the June vote
- Future discussion – Jerry mentioned that if we accept the LWCF grant then the entire property is restricted to conservation and outdoor recreation. The land may not be used for indoor recreation facilities. Working Group to discuss whether to try and leave out a small area from grant application.
- Transition to fundraising campaign.

Next meeting will be the beginning of March date TBD.

Respectfully,
Elaine