

TOWN OF CROMWELL
BOARD OF SELECTMEN, CONSERVATION COMMISSION
AND RECREATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 14, 2010
7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL ROOM 224/5
FIRST SELECTMAN'S OPEN FORUM
TOPIC: OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION
MINUTES

Present: First Selectman J. Flanders, Deputy First Selectman R. Newton, A. Waters,
A. Spotts, A. Varricchio, A. Halibozek

Absent: P. Ahlquist

Also Present: Members of the Conservation and Recreations Commissions, Public and
Press

A. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Flanders called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

B. OPEN FORUM

First Selectman Flanders opened the meeting to Public Comments.

1. Fran Monnes, Old Colony Lane

- Improve the Town Parks and make them more user friendly.
- Would like to see a hiking/biking trail from Cromwell to Middletown.
- Would like a splash pad at Pierson Park.
- Would like to see a Bocce Court, Horse-shoe pit and a Basketball Court and Volley Ball Court at Riverfront Park.
- Would like signs installed listing the activities available at the location of that park.
- Would like signs on Main Street directing people to the parks.

2. Bill Sullivan, Millennium Drive

- Would like biking/hiking trail from Cromwell to Middletown along the river.
- Would like kayak/canoe launch on the River.
- Would like walking trail at Evergreen Park.
- Would like a Dog Park and a Town Pool.

(First Selectman Flanders announced that an agreement is being arranged in principal to share recreational facilities at resident rates with the Town of Rocky Hill. As a result of this agreement Cromwell residents will be able to utilize Rocky Hill pools.)

3. Lu Landis, Prospect Hill Road

- Would like the Open Space Plan recommended by the Conservation Commission and presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission included in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

- Would like to see a canoe launch at Riverfront Park and the current launch area in back of Dunkin Donuts enhanced.
(First Selectman Flanders advised that come this spring there will be a canoe/kayak launch at the Riverfront Park)
4. Jessica White, Elm Road
 - Would like a splash pad, non-residents could pay a small fee to use the pad.
 - A Town Pool.
 - A hiking/biking trail along the river.
 - Access to a boat launch and more River activities.
 5. Amanda Thomas, Cedar Land Court, President Cromwell Hills Phase 1
 - Residents of Cromwell Hills would like a Dog Park.
 6. Christine Trousdale, Timber Hill Road
 - Town Pool.
 - Splash pad.
 7. Helen Zalewski, Geer Street
 - Against Town Pool.
 8. Mike Weidler -Main Street
 - Address passive recreation; take a look at the ponds in the Shadow Lane area. If the problems are fixed in that area it could be used for ice skating and fishing.
 9. Amoro Corvo, Main Street
 - Thinks combining recreation efforts with Rocky Hill is an excellent idea.
 - Additional parking is needed at the Riverfront Park.
 - Town needs a Cultural Committee, volunteered to help Parks & Recreation.
 10. Matt Kowalski, Shadow Lane
 - Agreed with Mr. Weidler regarding the pond. There is a flooding problem due to the beavers in the area. There is also a trash problem near the pond. Would like to see the town put trash cans there and have the Parks Department empty the cans on a regular basis.
 - In favor of a Town Pool more so than a splash pad because a pool is educational and would be used by all ages.
 - Would love to see a walking path along the river.
 - Canoe and Kayak area in back of Dunkin Donuts needs some work, grading needs to be fixed.
 11. Jeff Polke, Pondview Drive
 - Town needs to take care of what we already have. Parks and fields, roads and sidewalks need to be maintained. A volunteer is taking care of the school fields and Pierson Park playground was built because of a fund raising effort.
 - Town should approach Mike Cannata and work on putting a walking/biking trail from Main Street down to River Gate Drive.
 - Work with the TPC and offer discounted golf rates and use of the driving range for residents.

- Ask developers for the best lots for open space.
12. Myron Johnson, Pleasant Street
 - Rescind agreement for Evergreen Hill Park; return State funding and Put area to use.
 - Rewrite agreement with Cromwell Outboard Association so residents can use the launch.
 - In favor of Town Pool.
 13. Helen Zalewski, Geer Street
 - Would like to see a field flooded to be used for ice skating. (First Selectman Flanders advised that the Public Works Director is looking into a place to flood for skating.)
 14. Joe Koniushesky, Evergreen Road
 - Open space advocate.
 - Against returning funding for Evergreen Hill Park to the State.
 - Town should look into purchasing the Cromwell portion of the Hintz property.
 - Riverfront area too sandy to launch kayaks. The area needs to be made more accessible.
 - In favor of a pool only if it is a year-round pool.
 - Workshop was held several years ago for open space and recreation. The material may still be available.
 15. John Schmaltz, Harrison Drive
 - Agreed with the previous speakers regarding the problems with the Shadow Lane pond.
 - Town should have purchased sand-pits years ago.
 - Spent many years working on the Athletic Fields. There is a good relationship with the Board of Education and the Parks Department is cooperative in maintaining the fields. Many other organizations deserve acknowledgement for the part they pay in maintaining the fields; Little League, Cromwell Chill, American Legion Post 105, Cromwell Football League and the Cromwell High Booster Club.
 - A Synthetic Field would take pressure off of the other fields. A study committee will determine where the field will be located.
 - Many of the fields need drainage work.
 - Spoke regarding the pesticide ban that the State put in place that would prohibit pesticide applications for schools 8th grade and below.
 - Snow Park should be developed. A multi-function building should be considered for a pool, basketball courts and indoor activities. (First Selectman Flanders advised that they are heavily pursuing the cooperation with the Parks Department and the Board of Education, they will be moving forward in the spring).
 16. Bob Jahn, Woodside Road
 - The attempt is to maintain the fields in Cromwell at the highest standard possible with the smallest work force.

- A code of responsibility should be established for the teams using the fields. So they fields are left in good condition.
 - Spoke regarding the poor condition of the pond at Shadow Lane.
 - Agrees that we should get out of the strict usage restrictions of the Hoffman Property by the state. Funds should be repaid to the State and the land should be used for a Senior Center and an all season Town Pool.
17. Amoro Corvo, Main Street
- A swimming pool is jumping the gun. Cromwell doesn't have enough commercial property to lower the taxes.
 - Teens need some place to go and something to do in this town.
18. Dick Newton, Elm Road, Member of Board of Selectmen
- In favor of the Splash pad concept.
 - Would like to preserve land along the River and if possible transfer as much of the land as possible along the river to the public.
 - Town should pursue purchasing a stretch of land along the river that Northeast Utilities owns.
 - Town should explore passive recreation options for Evergreen Hill Park.
19. Sue Schein, Director Recreation
- Advised people to give her a call if they think of any other ideas.
20. Ann Halibozek, Christian Hill Road, Member of Board of Selectmen
- Gave history of the Splash pad idea that she presented to the Board several months ago. Found though researching the internet that there could be funds available from Brownfield Remediation Grants to prepare an area for the splash pad.
 - Spoke regarding conservation land that the town acquired in the Northwoods Estates area. Hopes that someday an Eagle Scout will take on a project to make the long path that goes down to the Mattabassett River more accessible by adding bridges.
21. Donna Morales, Shady Brook Drive
- More parking is needed in the area of the Football Field.
 - The fields need to be kept in good repair.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Re Matus
Secretary

John Flanders
First Selectman