



MINUTES OF THE HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS TOWN COUNCIL
WORKSHOP SESSION HELD JANUARY 19, 2021

Mayor MacFarlane called the Town Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Mayor MacFarlane led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Martha MacFarlane, Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Conroy, Councilor George Lehning, and Councilor Rick Klein.

Excused Absent: Councilor Marie V. Gallelli

Also present: Town Clerk John Brock

New Business

1. Discussion: Sara Maude Mason Park Preservation Project

Martha MacFarlane, Mayor turned this discussion over to Councilor Rick Klein. Councilor Klein gave a brief history of the building and maintenance of the Park. The South section of the park currently needs to be rebuilt. Councilor Klein worked up estimates of what it would cost the city to replace the South Section. If the town were to replace with pressure treated wood the estimate came to \$144,000. If the town were to replace with Polymer Deck, which should weather better, the estimated cost to replace the South section is \$176,000. He also created an estimate to replace all three sections, it was \$317,000. Mr. Ernest has also gotten a bid from John Murphy for \$152,000 to replace the South Section.

The money that the Parks & Recreation Board had allocated for the library has been fully used, there is no money remaining from that project that can be used for Sara Maude Mason Nature Preserve. The town will have to find a way to find all of the funds for this project. Park & Rec. Impact Fees could only possibly be used if we were changing the park substantially, they cannot just be used just for repairs.

Pat Miller, Chair of Parks & Recreation Board stated that the board agreed that whatever needs to be done, so that people can safely utilize Park, they are in support of. However, they did not think that a loan was appropriate.

There is interest in increasing the capacity at the observation area (in the South Section) and installing some benches. We might be able to use some of our impact fees for those expansions. We should be looking for grants to do most of the work. The town should utilize Thomas Harowski, our Town Planner, to help us in procuring some grants. We should also

do some repairs on the West section. The town should have Mr. Ernest get an estimate on repairing small sections of the West section and bring before the Council for a vote.

Mayor Pro-Tem, Ed Conroy, suggested that the Parks & Recreation Board research best practices on how to maintain these sections of the park going forward. It was suggested that perhaps Fish & Wildlife or Lake County Water Authority might know some best practices or what chemicals could be safe to seal the wood. This information could be important for all the Town's parks.

Councilor Klein volunteered to talk to one of the town residents about using an aerial drone to get us video footage of the state of the South section of the park.

Mayor MacFarlane was going to speak with Thomas Harowski, Sara Whitaker, and Jennifer Bolling about looking for possible grants that we could use for this project. We would like to get something for the next fiscal year if not sooner.

The town council will make an effort next budget cycle to provide money for cleaning maintenance of the park. Cleaning the open sections along with some repair work on the open sections should be within our current budget. Public Services can clean or apply sealers. Depending on how extensive repairs are on the North and West section, we may need to bid that out.

Public Comments

Sharon Couture, 412 East Revels - Believes Sara Maude is a special place and needs to be preserved.

Myron Lewellen, 508 Bellissimo Pl – Mr. Lewellen was concerned about exactly how much this would cost and that he thought we should have a formal audit of the reserve funds.

ADJOURNMENT

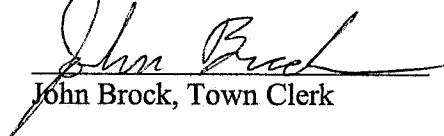
There being no further business to discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:56pm.

Attendees: 9



Mayor MacFarlane

ATTEST:



John Brock, Town Clerk