

## Hubbard Recreation & Natural Area - Public Meeting

September 23, 2021 5:30 - 7:00 pm

### **Presenters:**

Ashley Parker, City Project Manager, City of South Burlington  
Holly Rees, Director, City of South Burlington Recreation & Parks Dept.  
Justin Rabidoux (Virtual), City of South Burlington Department of Public Works  
Patrick Olstad, SE Group  
Roger Dickinson, Lamoureux & Dickinson

### **Attendees:**

Lisa Yankowski (NRCC), Donna Leban (Bike/Ped), Jean Hunt, Mike Simoneau (Rec & Parks), Bill McMeekin, Bill Wargo (NRCC), Nancy Hellen, Larry Kupferman (NRCC), Bill Barber (Rec & Parks), Linda Norris, Betty Milizia (Common Areas for Dogs), Jean Chaulot (NRCC), Havaleh Gagne (Bike/Ped)

(See attached list of virtual attendees)

### **Public Forum Comments**

Jean Hunt

- Appreciates the work, but she has a different perspective.
- The project feels more manicured; instead it is perfect the way it is.
- Overkill/overdone- she doesn't see this as improving the park.
- Feels really sad to her.
- Maybe add benches but nothing more needed.
- Probably won't go there anymore.

Muriel More (virtual)

- No connection from Pheasant Way to the park.
- That eliminates a whole major neighborhood from having access to the park.
- Add some sort of crossing for pedestrians; a way to get across Spear St. Otherwise, her neighborhood will not have a good way to access the park.

Josh Nelson

- What is the plan for maintenance and trash removal for the park? Concerned about trash collecting next to stone walls.
- Current situation at Overlook Park needs improvement.

Response (Justin Rabidoux): Adequate resources will be allocated and will have a new employee to provide additional maintenance.

Sarah Dopp (virtual)

- She seconds what Jean Hunt mentioned.
- Least amount of park development is better.
- Concerned about paving of shared use path.
- Would prefer unpaved paths.

Bill McMeekin

- Entrance to the park is his concern as one of the parcels to the west (northwest) is his home.
- Concerned about why the parking area has to be on west side and slopes downward and concerned about run off. Might get worse. Not sure what the water garden does.
- Seems that the parking area is slanted for run off and could just as easily be put on other side.

Response (Ashley Parker): To the east are wetlands, can't put parking there. Will take into account any landscape, overflow, etc. issues.

Donna Leban

- She is a member of the Biking & Pedestrian Committee.
- Spoke of the importance of shared use paths, major links for neighborhoods east of Spear St, and the lack of safe off-road connections between neighborhoods.
- Intended to be an all-season path, which does need to be paved to be usable for all seasons.

Annette Barry (virtual)

- Areas of concern include conserving meadow habitat, where there is a lot of brush and trees, and the South Pointe neighborhood losing their view.
- What are the plans for the trees that have grown up?

Response (Ashley Parker): A management plan will be developed. No plan yet.

Linda Norris

- Concerns about impacting existing view corridors.
- Would encourage a more rustic feel.
- Doesn't think paved path would look rustic.
- Adding seating takes away from people walking and walking their dogs.
- Would prefer prioritizing putting money towards stormwater issues instead.

Jim ?

- Concerned about safety trying to access the park from the west side of Spear St.
- The existing crosswalk crossing Spear St at Deerfield & Nowland Farm Rd is dangerous.
- Parking area seems too large.

Jean-Sebastien Chaulot

- He is a member of the Natural Resources & Conservation Committee.
- Do the paths exist today?

Response (Ashley Parker): Mowed paths and trails exist today. This plan lets trail routes avoid wetlands and provides accessible paths suitable for wheelchair access. The parking lot will be gravel; although gravel is also considered to be an impervious surface.

Dan Albrecht (virtual)

- He is a member of the Development Review Board, and participated in the visioning task force for this property.
- Having accessibility is key.

- Not very accessible right now.

Larry Kupferman

- He is a member of the Natural Resources & Conservation Committee.
- Question about the Common Roots lease area; he noted the access to it.
- Will there be any restrictions on access for agricultural mechanical equipment and vehicles?

Catherine Frank

- She is also a member of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee.
- Wanted to reinforce that the route through Underwood will be a major connector.
- There are many walking trails in wooded area already. She is concerned about off-leash dogs and how they like to run. She is concerned about the lack of control over that.
- Gravel bike paths have a lot of puddles; all the more reason for paved paths.

Betty Milizia

- She is the Chair of the Common Areas for Dogs Committee.
- Would like to discuss off-leash dog concerns.
- She advocates for disabled users, and is concerned that they might have issues with safety as the park feels isolated. Concerned about accessibility.
- Should connect the southwest corner to Pheasant Way

Barb Sirvis (virtual)

- Make all things accessible for the disabled. Keep the open space.
- Create something that would be accessible for them and their friends.
- Off-leash dogs are a major issue.

Mike Simoneau

- He is a member of the Recreation and Parks Committee and was involved in the original visioning.
- This plan is a more passive form of recreation than what was originally envisioned.
- The Committee is tasked with satisfying the needs of all our residents and community.
- Providing benefit to as many people as we can and providing equity with resources we have.
- The Recreation Dept. tries to satisfy everyone as much as they can.

Katherine Boyk (virtual)

- She is a member of the Natural Resources & Conservation Committee.
- Not everyone feels safe on walking trail, especially people of color or LGBTQ.
- They might feel safer in a more developed area.
- Important consideration: safety for everyone.

Lisa Yankowski

- She is a member of the Common Areas for Dogs Committee.
- Loves the concept of trying to keep it as natural as possible and keep it available for everybody.
- Concerned about people potentially camping out overnight.
- City viewing area a little more natural.

Jean-Sebastien Chaulot

- Will there be basic low level security lighting?  
Provide a minimal amount of lighting; as people will want to watch sunsets, etc.

Muriel More (virtual)

- Different needs for different people have but her needs for that land will be taken away.
- Dog owner that doesn't do leashes, need a place for off leash dogs to go.
- Virtually nowhere for dog owners to go.
- Woods would be perfect for unleashed dogs.

Betty Milizia

- Would like a response regarding dogs' needs.

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## Share Status

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