

CSAC Presentation to Town Board September 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm, Town Board meeting via Zoom

PRESENTATIONS:

CSAC: Comeau Property Report: CSAC Property Maintenance Outline

2021_09_21

Thank you to the Board for the invitation

Purchased in 1979 (79 acres), 42 years ago, it was not foreseen the use nor needs of this property

Easement in 2003 (2009), 18 years ago

Four of the seven members have been on our committee for the entire 10 years

Although there were great intentions, there was never a line item assigned to the maintenance needs of this large property, estimated being visited by 40, 000 people a year- 109/day

Trail maps are found on All Trails and other websites

1) Trails- Jim Hansen

- a. Trees in need of proactive downing, ie Dead Ash, others hanging
- b. Clearing already fallen trees
- c. Drainage pipes replaced, added in certain areas
- d. Stone in wet areas
- e. Wood chips in worn areas where roots have become exposed
- f. "Stairs" where people have gone between our trails and the stream bed
- g. Replacement of boardwalk planks
- h. Discouragement of other trails

2) Fields- Matt Longyear

- a. Remove overhanging branches on all open areas ie Longyear Meadow, Soccer Fields, Great Lawn, wet meadow
- b. Clear downed trees from open areas, proactively down dangerous dead trees

3) Invasives- Jeff Viglielmo Identified by WLC on Monitoring Walk of July 29, 2021 and verified during a Hudsonia/Cornell event of September 11, 2021

- a. Common Barberry
- b. Japanese Stilt Grass
- c. Autumn Olive
- d. Rosa multiflora

4) General upkeep- Jeff Viglielmo

- a. Stone walls rebuilt
- b. Parking lot edges look poor
- c. Brush chipped and spread not piled on edges of lawns and drives
- d. PortaPotty upkeep- nonworking lock, next week lock gone.
- e. Repainting or replacement of signage
- f. Fence falling down and repairs are unattractive

5) Trespassing signs on Comeau property- detracts from the walk, possibly installed illegally

6) The Town's beautiful property

Money, workers, grants?- Jeff Viglielmo

- a. AirB&B application money
- b. AllTrails donation

In the fall of 2019 we had developed a trail plan that we presented to the Town Board. We felt we had the backing of the Board to task a town maintenance worker on a weekly walk of the trails to clear downed or dangerous trees.

Brett Munson tells me that he reports the tree issues to the maintenance department

We also had felt we had consensus that there was going to be a piece of equipment purchased to help the maintenance department move stone regularly so that the resurfacing could be an ongoing project and eliminate the need for extensive work that is now in front of us.

Although the CSAC is responsible for helping organize volunteers for projects, we believe that the scope and “expertise” needed to safely and properly do what is needed is beyond our committee and any volunteers we may find as well as the Town’s Maintenance team. The use of machinery, chainsaws, etc. is a liability risk to the Town and should be done by qualified and experienced arborists, landscapers and trail builders. We will provide support to the entities ultimately found and smaller, less involved tasks will certainly be handled by our group. Ultimately, the goal is to have the Town’s Maintenance crew able to handle small, frequent work to maintain the Town’s property as they do across all the town’s properties.

Many local professionals exist and we have already started to engage them in providing estimates for handling these tasks.

The Town is encouraged to hire a professional grant writer since there appears to be many sources for funding for trail work, tree care, invasive remediation, etc. as well as many other of the Town’s wishes and needs.

Thank you to the Town Board for inviting this discussion, we hope that it will lead to a safer and attractive property in keeping with an affluent town.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Viglielmo
Chair CSAC