

**Minutes of Tuftonboro P&R Commission Meeting
Tuftonboro Free Library Open Meeting
December 5, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 4:00pm by Chair, Eileen Gil.

Attendees: Dennis Zilembo, Director, Eileen Gil, Commission Chair, Lloyd Wood, Alternate Member, Bob Murray, Selectman Representative, Mitchell Tufts, Zac Tufts, Sarah Warner, Commission Members, and Joyce Lake, Secretary. A quorum was noted. Approximately 24 Commission Members and various Guests attended this Meeting. Previous P&R minutes were not read since this was a Special Open Meeting regarding the P&R Central Park Upgrades.

Eileen Gil opened the meeting with a warm welcome to those in attendance, and introduced the P&R Commission members present, then she shared comments regarding the 2022 Master Plan which addressed the need and desire of 64% of Tuftonboro respondents who wanted access to trail systems, parks, and outdoor recreation space, along with bicycle infrastructure.

Joyce Lake gave an overview of the community based Vision of the Central Park Upgrade. The plan is to include Phase 1: Kids Skills Area Bike and Pump Track, a ¼ Mile Walking Track designed for Seniors with enhanced ADA surface, lighting, landscaping with Memory Moments along the Walking Track. A fenced in Dog Bark Park, a Butterfly Garden with Benches. Phase 2: would include a Community Pre-School Playground with shade covers, refreshed existing Hiking Multi Use Trail, and a Facilities Building with meeting room, storage room, kitchen and comfort facilities. Joyce mentioned that having a project that would include all ages and encouraged our whole community to join together on a positive, practical & much needed enhancement to our fine Town of Tuftonboro for a healthy lifestyle, and that this would be a safe location with the Tuftonboro Fire Station right next door. She then introduced Andrew Lester, our speaker for the evening who shared a PowerPoint Pictured Presentation.

Andrew Lester, Bella Terra Trail Design LLC, has suggested the 80+ acre Central Park, Rt 109A, Parcel #055-002-006-000 in Tuftonboro be upgraded from an empty lot to include the various features the P&R have suggested. He presented graphic slides of each segment of the proposed Central Park and answered questions that different ones asked during the meeting. Several attendees were pleased to learn more of the plans and had a favorable opinion of the possibility of an enhanced Central Park, one that kids who need to have a safe place to play and enjoy the great outdoors. Others stated that they could bring their Grandkids here to enjoy the Park when they come to visit in NH. Adults would enjoy an easy walk about, rather than uneven wooded trails.

Some of the issues discussed at the public meeting were safety permit questions with the use of the existing driveway for increased activity. Parking, either use of Fire Station parking lot or the grassed area to the right of the present driveway that Verizon has recently improved. There would be no wetlands or environmental issues, since the Central Park enhancements would be located in the present open field. There was a discussion about the restrictions from the Town

Lease with Verizon Cell Tower easement. Additionally, questions about the cost to build and maintenance of the Park. Andrew Lester assured attendees that various parts of the Park would be 85% maintenance free, just a leaf blower to keep the ¼ Mile Walking Track clear. (4x around track = 1Mile). And the need for a Feasibility Study and/or necessary Site Plans. All questions and concerns will be taken under advisement by the P&R, and all were encouraged to share their valuable input to make this a community wide upgrade to 'Heart of Tuftonboro'. Several have stated that this is what they have been waiting for!

Jill Cromwell, CIP Chair, stated that 'she liked it'. The plan has been recommended and approved by the Tuftonboro P&R, and has been submitted to the CIP Committee for their 10 Year Projects.

The Open Meeting was adjourned at 5:35PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Lake
P&R Commission Secretary