

Grand Lake Municipal Lands Advisory Committee, AKA Lands Committee

Meeting Minutes – 5/4/21

Meeting Info – The May 2021 meeting was held virtually via Zoom and the topics of discussion were the land use consultant proposals trail connectivity. Documents were provided that included the 2 proposals from land use consultants and a map of trail connectivity connections provided by John Murray.

Attendees: Cindy Southway, John Murray, Judy Burke, Heather McSlarrow, Ginny Wilkinson, Dawn Dobson, Kathy Weydert and James Peyton.

Minutes - The minutes from the meeting on 4/6/21 were reviewed and approved, with the removal of the “Stanley Property: from best opportunities for new trails.

Conflicts of Interest – None

Discussion Items:

Land Use Plan

There were a couple of issues brought up concerning the hiring of a land consultant to develop a land use plan:

- There were concerns about the Town paying for another plan that they don't use. The money could be better spent on improving town lands, parks and trails.
- The Board made changes to the original RFP (such as the Lands Steering Committee is the Lands Committee, add cemetery and east inlet plans as appendices, etc) – were these changes made in the RFP copy that was given to the consultants?
- The RFP mentioned that questions were allowed in the bid process, were both consultants given the same information?
- Have references been called for the land consultants?
- How will our committee's work be communicated to the land use plan consultant? Can we ask the consultant to meet with the Lands Committee?
- Attributes that would be helpful for the land plan to address are better use of town right-of-ways for trail connectivity and walking and bike route suggestions.
- How will the plan priorities be determined? Will planning for the Stanley Property overshadow the other town lands, parks, and trails?
- It is very important that the plan contain an implementation and project budgeting section.
- Will there be any follow up after the plan is accepted by the Town Board? Will there be some kind of personal connection with the consultant after the plan is written?

A list of pros and cons for each land use consultant's proposal were created and the committee voted unanimously in favor of the Mundus Bishop proposal. Cindy Southway will present the pros and cons list to the Planning Commission and Town Board.

Trail Information

The kiosk in Town Park has a great map that was paid for by the GL Rotary Club in 2015 with walking route suggestions. This map can be downloaded with a QR code to cellphones. Should there be paper handouts available in the hut next door?

Should the Town partner with the GL Historical Society to make their walking tour handout free of charge?

Trail Connectivity

The priorities for new trail and foot path improvement were identified as follows:

- Create a safe trail between the Grand Lake Visitor Center and Town Park with a connection to the Grand Lake Center
- Re-establish the cross-walk between the post office and Thomasson Trail
- Create a meandering path over the moraine to the sledding hill with a view area on top – pack it in, pack it out
- Improve path on Cairns Avenue with a better surface and extend the path to Point Park
- Improve the “Saratoga Trail” from Thomasson Park to GL Lodge
- Improve the Patterson Hill trail through GL Lodge to RMNP
- Create a trail along West Portal Road
- Designate bike and walking routes

Trail Funding

Recommend the creation of a Lands, Parks, and Trails Capital Improvement Fund in the Town budget

Apply for grants

Use volunteers to start improving trails. Do we need a volunteer group like the Trail Groomers to help implement trail improvements?

Tasks Assigned

A summary document of the Land Committee’s work to date needs to be given to the land use consultant. Cindy Southway will try to compile the Committee’s recommendations into one document for circulation and discussion at our June meeting. Heather McSlarrow and Dawn Dobson offered to help.

Ask the Town Board that Kim White, GL Planner be allowed to attend the Lands Committee meetings.