RECREATION AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 16, 2026 – 6:00 pm
Westbrook Community Room - Spruce Room
Westbrook, ME 04092

ITEM
Opening Commissioners present: Amanda Lessard, Bruce Wallingford, Paul Drinan, Nate Dyer, Andrew Krantz, Warren Lain, Matt Brunner, David von Seggern Staff present: Rebecca Spitella
Public Comment Robin Dahms, 101 East Valentine St., expressed concern and opposition to the removal of the fence around Beaver Pond siting safety concerns with proximity of the sidewalk to water, loss of habitat for turtles in the pond, lack of stabilization from fence post removal and general trash and debris within the vicinity. Ms. Dahms requested more communication with Commission regarding this item. Commissioner Matt Brunner requested Ms. Dahms reach out directly to him.
Commission Comment Nate Dyer requested an update on timing and schedule for installation of bike rack at the Community Center. Staff to report back. Paul Drinan reported a grant opportunity through the Safe Streets for All grant and suggested example Safety installations could include bike lanes on Saco Street, Spring Street or Main Street. Staff responded the SS4A grant requires a community adopt a Safety Action Plan, therefore Westbrook would not qualify to apply for demonstration projects this year. Warren Lain requested more information on the salt used by the City for snow maintenance and whether it is nitrogen or chloride based. Staff to follow up.
Staff Update - Financials No changes from previous meeting - Beaver Pond Water Quality Testing Staff reported Presumpscot Regional Land Trust is not able to perform the water quality testing for Beaver Pond. Staff presented a budget for the purchase of equipment for Sustainability Coordinator to complete the work. Warren Lain made a motion to approve the use of open space funds toward the purchase of equipment needed for water quality testing of Beaver Pond in an amount not to exceed $3,000. Motion seconded by Bruce Wallingford. Motion passed 7-0 - Maine Trails Bond Staff reviewed Maine Trails Bond information and eligibility criteria. Applicants for MTB are only eligible if any previous awarded projects are complete and recommended not to apply this round with the intent to apply for City Forest next year once the project has completed the LWCF conversion process.

Westbrook Trail Blazes Funding Request

- Request for the use of $30,000 in open space funds for the purchase of 2 pieces of equipment for trail maintenance.

  Dan McCarthy from Westbrook Trail Blazes presented the request to the Commission.

  Motion to fund in the full amount of $30,000 made by Andrew Krantz and seconded by Warren Lain. Motion passed 7-0

Green Space Attribute Inventory

- Introduce doc and discuss strategy/timeline for Commission inventory of parcels

  Commission discussion on project. Commissioners to select parcels to inventory. Staff to link google doc with google sheet and send links out to each Commissioner.

Public Comment – No public comment

Commission Comment

Paul Drinan stated a Riverwalk Cleanup event is scheduled for Saturday 4/25 with a rain date of Sunday, 4/26 to align with Celebrate Trails Day

Andrew Krantz inquired about the next Wandering Westbrook event. Amanda Lessard suggested coordination with the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust guided walk(s) to view alewife migration.

Adjourn

Adjournment of Recreation and Conservation Commission meetings may be no later than 8:30pm.
Any agenda items that have been discussed will be placed on the next WRCC agenda.