

02/09/2012

Friends of Camillus Park

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mary Flynn, Joe Flynn, Dave Callahan, Sue Ellen Callahan, Bill Davern, Eric Beacon, Mary Luber, Mike Luber, Stephanie Scheirer, Pat Solenberger, Artemis Gilbert, Rose DiCaprio, Dick Unger.

Mary Flynn opened the meeting and reviewed the talking points provided to the Town Board on Thursday, January 23, 2012. Mary also discussed the results of the walking tour of the park that was conducted on Tuesday, January 31, 2012. The walking tour participants included, Dr Neal Murphy, President, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York, Bob Davis, Director of Forest Properties, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York, Dave Callahan, Camillus Town Councilor 6<sup>th</sup> Ward, Eric Beacon, Camillus Parks and Recreation Director, Mary Flynn and Joe Flynn.

Mary read and email form Trisha Channels who was unable to attend the meeting.

Mary also read and email from Bob Davis indicating that he and several SUNY ESF Students would meet at Camillus Park on Friday, February 10, 2012 @ 3:00 PM to begin the process of evaluating the health of Camillus Park forest.

Eric Beacon addressed the group and discussed his participation in the walking tour and his belief of a need for an independent third party who will provide an unbiased evaluation of the park. The eventual recommendations as to the steps to be taken to improve Camillus Park would be presented to the Town Board for their approval.

Dave Callahan also addressed the group indicating participation and approval of the walking tour. He also discussed the recommendations for Camillus Park improvement set forth in the five years Camillus Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

There was a lively discussion concerning the recommendations of a Splash Pad and a Community building.

Mary brought the group back to the meeting objective to discuss the immediate improvements for the forest.

Eric explained the that he would begin the process of applying for grants through the following agencies; Land Water and Conservation Fund and the Environmental Protection Fund. Bill Davern recommended contacting Jeff Brown, Mackenzie Hughes Law firm to assist in the grant preparation. The group, in general, expressed a concern and desires that the improved trail system maintain the natural environment of the

park and not become involved in a “clear cutting” effort. Also discussed was removal of the White Ash trees that are in danger of death by invasion of the Emerald Tree Bore.

The group turned it’s thoughts to the Master Plan recommendation for a Community building discussing the following: where would the building be located, what activities would the building support, who would manage the building, etc. It was agreed that at the next meeting these questions should be discussed and answers developed.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2012, 6:00 PM at the Town Hall. The meeting will take place in the board room.