

Friends of Camillus Park

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2012

The meeting was opened with a review of the February 9, 2012 minutes for new members. Eric Beacon requested an amendment to the minutes explaining that grant money is not available from the Land, Water and Conservation Fund but he will be submitting a grant request to the Environmental Protection Fund.

Mary Flynn told of the tour of Camillus Park on Friday, February 10, 2012 with Bob Davis, ESF Director of Forest Properties and six ESF Graduate Students. The Students were genuinely excited to tour the park and provided numerous suggested improvements to the park. The Students have visited the park individually in preparation of proposals which will eventually be presented to the Friends of Camillus Park Committee.

Eric told of a Forest Steward Report that had been prepared in June 1999.

Dave Callahan asked for further explanations of a product known as Roadaly. Joe Flynn will provide a description of the all natural product which is used to maintain forest trails.

The ESF Students plan on scheduling meetings with neighbors of the park and other interested parties to present their proposals for improving Camillus Park.

A conversation ensued as to the need to survey the park. Eric Beacon will contact a Surveyor who was helpful with the surveys required to construct the Erie Canal Aqueduct.

A question was raised as to the Pedestrian path leading from Winding Way into the park. A suggestion was made that the path be constructed to support bicycle traffic.

Eric beacon reviewed the objectives associated with Camillus from the Camillus Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. He discussed he will be submitting a Grant for the following: a Forest Playground, Splash Pad and building that would support activities for 150 people. As a result there was further discussion of the Splash Pad with Dave Callahan suggesting the possible enclosure of the splash pad to allow for year round use. Attention was turned to the building and the activities it would support, such as, meeting rooms, exercise area, family gatherings, computer classes, various parties and private functions similar to the Westerly Barn and former Coterie Club and essentially a gathering place for Active Older Adults. Dave Callahan explained that the Town would entertain the possibility of issuing Bonds to support the construction of the building and using budgeted funds that had been set aside to cover operating expenses of the former Camillus Pool.

There was additional discussion of moving the pavilion closer to the parking area to accommodate visitors who would picnic in the park.

Once again the topic of people walking their dogs in the park was brought up and there was agreement that a future decision would be made as to the feasibility of allowing dogs on leashes in the park and placement of doggie bag stations and waste receptacles.

Finally the topic of fund raising was discussed and the fact that grants usually were associated with matching funds, i.e. a \$250.000 grant would have to be matched with donation / contributions of \$250.000.

Next steps: Presentation of proposals by the ESF Students, preparation of grant application, and gathering requirements for the building to support park and social activities.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 22, 2012, @ 7:00 PM, Town Hall Conference Room.