

DRAFT MINUTES
NINIGRET PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
Charlestown Town Hall, Town Council Chambers
4540 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813
October 30, 2023, at 6:00pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Quillen at 6:03pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Chairman Tim Quillen, Commissioner Jodi Frank, Commissioner Frank Glista, Commissioner Julie Melvin, and Commissioner Leonard Wood. Also present at the meeting was Director of Parks and Recreation, Vicky Hilton.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Wood and seconded by Commissioner Frank to approve the October 26, 2023, meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous.

5. INTRODUCTION

VHB gave an overview of the Master Plan Update. They stated the Master Plan is to make options and to help guide people with the possibilities that the park has to offer. Educating the community to understand what technologies are available to improve Ninigret Park. VHB will be accepting comments and questions in the next two weeks and will log them.

6. MASTER PLAN FAMILIARIZATION

Josh from VHB gave a presentation to state their purpose for being hired.

-Revise proposed 2008 and 2014 Master Plan.

-Identify Park areas and priorities.

-Provide guidance on necessary steps to begin implementing select park improvements.

VHB listed Ninigret Park Master Plan Priorities as they have interpreted through these subcommittee meetings and the town survey.

-Remove or Improve: front entrance, Gate House, bump out at tennis court, abandoned BMX track, pavilion, horse barn, electrical panels, criterion bike path and multi-use bike path

-To Remain: entrance stonewall sign, Naval Airfield Memorial, tennis/pickleball courts, exercise area, basketball courts, kids' playground, new pavilion, observatory, Frosty Drew, dog park, disc golf, Little Nini Pond concession area

-New Ideas: separate pickleball courts for competitions, shade areas throughout park, moveable aluminum bleachers, clear undergrowth at all stand-alone trees, remove dead trees, consider adding second observatory, new troll/sculpture multi-use path, new Chamber of Commerce

7. LOOKING FORWARD

VHB is looking for public feedback and input. They are requesting emails for the next two weeks.

8. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Several members of the community expressed concerns and suggestions. The agenda showed the meeting having three options for the public to review. Because the three options were not clearly displayed, another public meeting was suggested.

VOTE

A motion was made by Chairman Quillen, seconded by Commissioner Wood, to have another public meeting to discuss the three options that VHB had put on the agenda. The motion was approved with all in favor.

9. ADJOURNEMENT

A motion by Chairman Quillen, seconded by Commissioner Frank was made to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Cuddy