

Lake Lure Parks & Recreation Special Meeting

October 20, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM in Lake Lure Town Hall Conference Room.

Those in attendance: Ed Dittmer, Larry Czajkowski, Valerie Hoffman, Martyn Watts, Bill Miller, and Diane Barrett

Purpose of meeting: Decide what specific concept items the Board wants to provide Equinox Environmental relative to the Morse Park Inventory & Site Analysis for Equinox's use in developing project concept proposals for our next meeting on November 4th.

Ed asked the question of each Board member present, "What do you want to see in the Morse Park area based upon the Inventory & Site Analysis?"

Larry stated he was in favor of piping water from the large rectangular pond and reducing it in size to create additional wetland areas in the Potential Storage & Wetland areas as designated on the map Equinox provided. Construct some type of walkway/boardwalk into the created wetland areas so the area can be used for educational purposes, and enhance birding area making the Morse Park area a destination for tourists. This would also provide an outdoor environmental classroom for students. Utilize piping for drainage along the grass field/events area to carry rain water into the pond or wetland areas. Keep as much green space as possible. A plan MUST be created for regular town maintenance of the area.

Martyn stated he favored converting the Potential Storage & Wetland areas into a true wetland and place fill dirt around each wet area to keep water in place. Utilize a ditch from pond to both wetland areas then into the lake. Possible revenue source if a covered platform or gazebo was placed in the middle of the pond which could handle weddings. The pond would need more flora planted along the bank.

Valerie stated she agreed with Larry's suggestion – it's a workable plan. She wants more information re large pond development. The area will become more eco-tourism friendly.

Bill stressed the absolute need to have regular maintenance of the area once renovation has occurred. He also agreed with Larry's suggestion.

Diane also agreed with Larry's suggestion and reiterated the need of berming the wetland areas to retain water in the designated areas; the need for piping non-point source water away from the grass field, through and along the tree lined area and remove willows and excess vegetation to provide more open space; dig one foot deep trench with a concrete barrier topped with a seating area around hardwood trees; and plant several trees along the bank of the pond to give it more beauty.

Ed agreed with the option of maximizing usable green space in the meadows area for event use, through burial of drainage pipes to divert water from the meadow to the real wetland areas closer to the containment pond in Morse Park Gardens, while diverting water to the potential storage and wetland areas to mitigate wetland loss and creating managed and enhanced wetlands there for birding and wetland educational viewing.. He did not favor any decrease in the size of the pond, but favored a more shallow shoreline there to accommodate managed shoreline plantings.

After hearing Board members views, Ed will present their views to Equinox for input into their proposals for Morse Park drainage and wetland enhancement.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Barrett