

Charge for Committee to Identify Community Pool Options

Town of Norwich

1. Introduction

On August 28, 2011, Tropical Storm Irene removed a section of the Town dam that created a seasonal community pool on Charles Brown Brook near the intersection of Beaver Meadow Road and Brigham Hill Road. After holding a variety of public forums on engineering options, the Town applied to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) for a permit to replace the pool on August 25, 2015. During the application process, 600 petitioners asked the Selectboard to support restoration of the pool. ANR denied the permit on October 25, 2015. The FEMA funds that had been held in reserve to replace the pool were then redirected to other projects because the Selectboard determined that an appeal of the ANR decision was not likely to be affordable or successful before the FEMA funds expired. The former Charles Brown Brook swimming site is slated for restoration to natural flow in the summer of 2016.

2. Statement of Purpose

The role of the Committee is to make recommendations to the Selectboard regarding options for providing swimming access to Town residents, including established swimming sites and the development of one or more new sites, readily accessible to townspeople.

3. Public Participation and Involvement

Public participation and involvement in the Committee's work is a high priority and the Committee shall conduct a minimum of three public forums, one at the beginning of the process to review the scope of the Committee's work, one during the process to review the Committee's interim recommendations and one near the end of the process to review a draft of the Committee's report before submittal to the Selectboard.

4. Membership

The Committee shall consist of a minimum of five members, appointed by the Selectboard. The members should be a cross-section of the Town and bring to the Committee diverse interests and expertise. Other Town groups, such as the Recreation Council and Conservation Commission are encouraged to nominate members to this Committee. The Committee shall choose from its membership a chair and other positions as appropriate. The Committee may establish subcommittees to assist in carrying out its work, which must in turn conform to the Vermont Open Meetings Law.

5. Meetings

The Committee's meetings shall be held at a regular time and place when possible. The time and place of each meeting shall be made available and posted in the same manner as the Selectboard agenda and in compliance with the Vermont Open Meetings Law. Draft minutes of meetings shall be available within five days of any meeting.

6. Committee Review and Analysis

The Committee should explore the potential for developing sites on or near existing brooks, rivers and other bodies of water in town, including the Ompompanoosuc and Connecticut Rivers. Having identified such sites, the Committee should consult with ANR on types of impoundments that would be permissible. Having identified potential

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sites that have tacit approval of ANR, the Committee should prepare an interim report and hold the second forum to present its findings. Upon receiving go-ahead from the Selectboard, the Town Manager will provide engineering support to identify approximate costs and configurations for the preferred options, which will become the basis for the final report. Estimates of costs should include property acquisition, permitting, construction, annual maintenance and annual operations.

7. Interim Report and Forum

The Committee shall draft an interim report for presentation to the public on or before September 1, 2016 that describes the options available to townspeople for swimming at established sites and the options that show potential for ANR approval of development at a newly developed site. The interim report shall be presented to the Selectboard on or before September 1, 2016.

8. Final Report and Forum

The Committee shall draft a final report for presentation to the public on or before November 15, 2016 that describes the options available to townspeople for swimming at established sites and the recommended options that show potential for ANR approval of development at a newly developed site, together with the cost analysis supported by preliminary engineering studies. The final report from the Committee, including its findings and recommendations, should be presented to the Selectboard on or before November 30, 2016.

Approved by the Selectboard April 13, 2016.