

**INFORMAL MEETING OF THE
TOWN OF MORRISTOWN
SELECTBOARD
MINUTES**

DATE: January 20, 1997

PRESENT: Brian R. Greenia, Chair, Donald R. Anderson, Steven G. Leach, Philip L. Locke, Kenneth E. Grimes, Carole D. Kissinger

DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT: Bill Moulton

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached list

This informal informational meeting was called to discuss the future of the newly acquired "Viencek Property". The property was recently purchased by the Copley Trust Fund who donated it to the Town. The only official uses the Town has for it at the present time are for leisure parking and for winter snow. The reason for this meeting was to listen to plans and ideas that people may have for the property.

Brian read a section from the Copley Will that stated: "Any work or works established from the Fund may be improved, extended, enlarged or added to from time to time, but the current expense of their care and maintenance shall be borne by said Town. I also direct that no part of said income shall be mingled with other funds or applied in joint undertakings, but that each work established under this gift shall be separate and distinct, and shall always bear in a conspicuous place a suitable inscription identifying it as erected or established from said ALEXANDER HAMILTON COPLEY FUND."

The condition of the land, covered with ice in winter, should be considered. The intent of the Town is to remove all the buildings. The Fire Dept. will take care of this objective.

Gary Nolan with Tom Bjerke presented a modified version of their proposal for the area. They discussed using it for a recreational park. On their plans, they showed a rec path of .6 miles in length, paved so as to be handicapped accessible. A fenced-in, lighted softball field would be on the upper level, along with a play area, a kiosk, restrooms and a parking lot, a section of which would be overlaid with an ice rink in the winter. On the lower land, a softball field was shown with a soccer overlay. Benches, trees, areas for picnics, etc. were also available on this lower level. An estimate of about \$300,000 was mentioned. Gary also discussed the way that Waterbury supports their Recreation facilities, and how Stowe has a group who takes care of cemeteries and the Rec Path.

Other possible uses of the Oxbow property were discussed: Janet suggested using it for a Flea Market perhaps held every Saturday morning, similar to that of Waterbury. Concerts, picnics, family outings, tennis courts and the Farmers' Market were also mentioned.

Chris Ransom is opposed to the single-mindedness of the Sports enthusiasts. He said that the area is too gorgeous for a Sports Complex only. There is a "blow out" that must be addressed. Chris suggested using boulders in an esthetic fashion to correct it, instead of ugly riprap. He also advocated the use of a dry hydrant in the area. He thinks that the Town should set a Fine for bringing glass into the park, that the Pond should be dug out so families can use it, and that a canoe access should be constructed near the parking area. Perhaps a contest could be held for the kids to find out what they would like to see in THEIR park.

Mike Ries voiced his concern for the need for more baseball fields in town. Someone listed all the areas outside Morristown where Morristown teams go to play because of lack of fields in the area. Sonny Demars said that we should look at the whole community, and consider other sites that are available for ball fields. He mentioned the area that belongs to W&L off Rte. 15.

