

Minutes
New School Playground Committee Meeting
January 11, 2018

Present: Paul K. Perzanoski, Steve Ciembroniewicz, Steve Walker, Corey Perreault, Jeanie Doughty,
Tracey Peck-Moad, Jeanne Stinson, Lisa Martin

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Jeanne Stinson agreed to serve as Chair; Corey Perreault agreed to serve as Vice-Chair.
- 3) Jeanne presented information from several years of work by Coffin's playground committee. Hard copies were handed out and an electronic version will be attached.
- 4) The budget number of \$105,600 was presented as part of our meeting agenda. That amount is low to build three playgrounds.
- 5) The town has given the school department an additional 4 acres (near the train tracks) bringing the site to 17. This should provide some space for a "natural" (less built) portion of the playground environment.
- 6) The preschool playground may be used by as many as 60 kids at a time.
- 7) We had a wide-ranging conversation about the ideas generated by "the Coffin plan" falling into 4 major categories: other elements to consider for the playground, other sources of funds to build the playground (grants), questions/parking lot items, and action items before our next meeting:
 - a. Other playground elements to consider:
 - i. Amphitheater/outdoor classroom space similar to Longfellow playground
 - ii. Large wobble platforms similar to Longfellow playground
 - iii. Turf for the soccer field (not standard size!)
 - iv. Shade
 - v. Natural items to play on – logs/rocks/etc.
 - vi. Trail area for classroom and PE use – possibly with some challenge elements
 - vii. Drinking fountains!!
 - viii. Garden with water available
 - b. Other potential sources of funding:
 - i. Centre Fund?
 - ii. BCEF?
 - iii. Bowdoin (Common Good?)
 - iv. BTLT?
 - v. Fundraising (perhaps for specific items/features?)
 - c. Questions/Parking Lot:
 - i. Can the landscape be changed to provide some hills?
 - ii. Can we plan snow removal to make sure the piles are usable for the children?
 - iii. How can we provide sand boxes and still consider hygiene?
 - iv. How can we use natural materials for playing and climbing and consider safety for the children?
 - v. What size should each hard surface be and where should it be located?
(Consider color!)
 - vi. Begin developing a list of playgrounds worth visiting (one Kim photographed in the past? The one at Pineland? Garden in the Woods? Any features from the Botanical Gardens?)

- vii. Keep in mind that we could partner with other local groups on the nature piece – Kurt Stinson is one the conservation commission, Steve Walker and Lisa Martin both have connections with Brunswick Topsham Land Trust, others?)
- viii. Plan a site visit for spring
- ix. Next steps -- Develop RFP
- x. Next steps – develop plan for grant writing and/or fundraising

d. Action Items:

- i. Jeanne Stinson will talk to the 2nd grade teachers at HBS about the playground at the Stowe school and its highlights and lowlights for this age group
- ii. Steve C. will bring the current building plans for study
- iii. Jeanne Stinson will bring any catalogues that she still has – just for fun
- iv. Jeanne Stinson will provide the committee with web addresses for the natural playground company that we investigated in the past as well as for the musical playground company
- v. Jeanne Stinson will provide some rough estimates for larger pieces of equipment from our Coffin plan estimate for planning purposes
- vi. Paul P. will provide the Requests for Proposal that were used for the Stowe School playground
- vii. **All – please review the “Coffin Plan” with a view toward prioritizing our wants/needs for this playground as a new committee (including the addition of the above ideas from this meeting and any others)**

8) Tentative next meeting: February 8, 2018