

Greensboro Initiatives Committee Report

August 8, 2014

Committee Members: Naomi Ranz-Schleifer (chair) and Allison Stegner

In 2013, the Greensboro Initiatives Committee was established as a standing committee within the Greensboro Association that aims to enhance our community and support various projects in Town. The Greensboro Initiatives Committee, with the help of Laura Hill, began its efforts last year helping the Town of Greensboro to make the Village Green across from Willey's Store more inviting for the general public by cleaning up the center of the green and planting a new evergreen, several new maples, and various flowering shrubs around its edges. The Greensboro Association plans to continue its efforts rejuvenating this central space by adding some fruit trees, shrubs, and benches for all to enjoy.

This summer, the Greensboro Initiatives Committee has added two new initiatives: Willey Beach Park (WBP) and Sidewalks.

Willey Beach Park is a 3.7 acre parcel of land that was purchased by the Town of Greensboro in the 1970s with a grant they received to develop a recreation park on the property. Since then, the property has largely been untouched and only recently was the Town asked to follow through with their commitments to make the property a recreation park accessible to the public. In order to determine a course of action, the Greensboro Selectboard created a Willey Beach Park Committee (consisting of Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, John Mackin, and Selectboard Members Peter Romans and Bridget Collier). In addition to determining a course of action for fulfilling the grant terms and converting the land into a public park, the Committee was tasked with developing a recommendation for parking facilities on the property. The issue of parking on the property was brought to the forefront after a portion of the property was covered in gravel during the Town water line project and it was suggested that this portion of the property could dually serve as parking for the Park as well as to address some parking shortages within the village. The WBP Committee is currently working to develop a recommendation to the Selectboard for the WBP property that includes both a plan to fulfill the grant's stipulations for a recreation park and address the question of parking.

The Greensboro Initiatives Committee, with the help of Patrick Hewes, is also currently working on a proposal to improve pedestrian and bicycle access throughout the village. This spring, new sidewalks were put in extending from the Town Green to the Village Green after having been ripped out during the water line project. While this new sidewalk has been viewed as a great improvement, the remaining existing sidewalks are in need of significant repair and there are many locations where sidewalks would be beneficial for pedestrian traffic. As a result, the Greensboro Initiatives Committee is in the beginning stages of forming a proposal for the Selectboard to repair the remaining sidewalks in town and extend the current sidewalk to the new Fire House/Ball Field intersection (Tolman Corners) as well as along the paved road heading toward Craftsbury until Gebbie Road. The current Greensboro Town Plan (adopted in 2012) acknowledges the importance of encouraging pedestrian and bicycle transportation for both the Greensboro and Greensboro Bend villages and called for identifying and repairing existing sidewalks, determining the feasibility of extending a walking/biking path in both directions leaving from the Greensboro Village, working to create a sidewalk network in the Greensboro Bend Village district, and seeking funding for such a projects. The Greensboro Initiatives Committee is hoping to work with the Town of Greensboro to make this project a reality.

For anyone interested in helping with any of these initiatives or for input on future projects, please contact Naomi Ranz-Schleifer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Naomi Ranz-Schleifer