**2015 Community Initiatives Committee Report**

**July 30, 2015**

The Community Initiatives Committee (CIC) works closely with the Greensboro Selectboard and collaborates with local organizations to enhance our community by conceiving and supporting various initiatives in Greensboro.

This past year, the CIC worked with the Town Selectboard to convert the space known as **Willey Beach Park** into a public recreation park for the community. Due to the extensive rains earlier this year, there have been slight delays but grass is now growing on the previously graveled area and the park is well on its way. A sign to designate the public recreation space will be erected shortly. During the 2015 Town Meeting, the Town allocated funds for this project and we are now seeking landscaping bids for the finalization of this phase of the project. Special thanks to Peter Romans, Greensboro Selectman, for his dedication to the project.

This spring, the CIC worked with the Town to obtain 2 **Village Center Designations** from the State for both the Greensboro Village and Greensboro Bend Village. This State designation increases federal funding opportunities for organizations and initiatives within the Town, such as sidewalks or Willey’s Store, which is seeking funding for a building renovation project. Thanks to Kristen Leahy, Greensboro Zoning Administrator, for spearheading this project and making it happen in a timely manner.

This past year, in an effort to improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities throughout the Town so that people can more easily and more safely bike/walk/stroll around Town and around the lake, the CIC, explored the potential of reconstructing sidewalks in both village centers and the option of applying for a State **Bike/Ped** grant. Numerous public hearings were held throughout the year to gain input from community members on the project proposal and applying for grant funding. After receiving the opinion from state officials and engineers, however, the Town has opted to proceed without federal assistance and the cumbersome regulations that go along with it. At Town Meeting in March, the Town of Greensboro authorized the allocation of $10,000 towards the sidewalk reconstruction project. Since foregoing the grant process, the Town has opted to approach the project in stages with the initial focus being the reconstruction of sidewalks in the Greensboro Bend Village. Depending on funding, the long-term hope for the Bike/Ped project is to redo the existing sidewalks in both the Greensboro and Greensboro Bend Village Centers as well as extend a multi-purpose path from the Lakeview Inn to the Ball field/Tolman Corners and from the Town Hall to North Shore Road, as stipulated in the current Town Plan. Even longer-term, the CIC hopes to examine the feasibility and cost of creating a multi-purpose path/lane between the 2 village centers (Greensboro and Greensboro Bend) with the hope of some day also connecting to the Rails to Trails network in the Greensboro Bend. Going forward, the CIC is looking for individuals interested in helping with this extensive project. To date, major thanks are due to Peter Romans and Patrick Hewes for their contributions.

Throughout the past year, the CIC has been devising a plan to create a **Maker Space** in Greensboro. A Maker Space is a communal learning environment that encourages, inspires, and allows children, teens, adults, and families to tinker, design, experience, and create. A Maker Space would allow people to share tools, equipment, expertise, and interest in the experience and creation of new things and talents. The CIC is currently working with the Greensboro Free Library to foster Maker workshops for children and is gathering a motivated team of individuals and organizations to make a Maker Space a reality. If you wish to join our team, please let me know.

For anyone interested in helping with any of these existing initiatives or generating new ones, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Naomi Ranz-Schleifer