

SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

SEWATARO ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

Present: Select Board members Charles Russo, Bill Schineller.

The statutory requirements as to notice having been compiled with, the meeting was convened at approximately 8:15 PM via Zoom telecommunication mode.

Member Russo announced the recording of the meeting and other procedural aspects included in the meeting. Select Board roll call: Russo-present, Schineller-present.

Discussion

Member Russo announced the meeting agenda, as posted, which included Subcommittee kick off, Review Sewataro 2021 Select Board Goal, as set Nov. 16, 2020, Review Sewataro subcommittee mission as voted at March 23, 2021 Select Board Meeting, Discuss Goals and Deliverables, Discuss approach, work schedule, and tentative timeline.

Member Schineller noted several members of the public were attending the meeting virtually.

Member Russo shared a table displaying the Sewataro-related goals as set by the full Select Board at its goal setting session in November, organized into short- medium- and long-term goals.

Member Schineller suggested a timeline to meet these goals would be helpful and that an updated understanding of site activities and operations would be useful.

A desire for more information and the potential for a FlashVote survey to gauge resident interest in various uses of the site was discussed.

Resident Mara Huston, Peakham Road, noted that increased usage and summer swimming were among the goals. She noted many groups in Town are using the site, some organizations have participants pay to attend events but do not pay the Town to use the property. Besides equity around fees, she noted public swimming raises many issues and encouraged coordination with Park & Recreation.

Kristen Drummey, Mossman Road, Camp Sewataro Community Liaison, noted that the public use calendar has been added to the Town website. Coordination with Park & Rec has already begun, she said. Ms. Drummey noted that Covid had driven many organizations that ordinarily wouldn't use the Sewataro property to host outdoor events there and expected them to return to their usual hosting spots once Covid ended.

Ms. Drummey recapped some of the Sudbury organizations that had and planned to use the site for events, and described some of the processes to host these events, such as inspections, permitting, and adding bathrooms.

Ms. Drummey clarified that if the Town decided to charge for use of the property, those fees would not be subject to the revenue share agreement, but would go entirely to the Town.

Resident Mara Huston, Peakham Road, noted that with the upcoming construction of the Fairbank Community Center, a comparison of various use fees for facility rentals around Town, including Sewataro, would be valuable.

Different groups set different fees, e.g., Library Trustees for the Library, School Committee for Schools, Park and Rec for their facilities, etc. A comparison would be valuable. She expressed the opinion that with the high cost paid to acquire the Sewataro property through debt, some of the cost should be recouped via fees from user groups, balanced against access for residents.

Member Russo recapped the discussion and suggested several updates occur for the next meeting:

- A check in with Park & Rec Director Dennis Mannone, by Charlie.
- Obtain feedback from the Select Board about the monthly Sewataro newsletter from the Camp Operator and possibly add more metrics or detail, by Bill.
- Check with Facilities Director Bill Barletta about the property safeguarding questions, by Bill.
- Check with Town Manager Henry Hayes about the creation of a Usage and User Fees Policy, by Charlie.

Robert Stein, 7 Hudson Drive, encouraged the committee to analyze the financials to obtain revenue as promised from the site. He noted the camp operator has applied for PPP federal funding and the Town should receive its share of that funding. Without those revenues, he suggested the Town sell the property.

A follow up meeting in approximately two weeks was suggested.

Adjourn

Member Schineller moved to end the meeting and adjourn.

It was on motion 2-0; Russo-aye, Schineller-aye

VOTED: To adjourn the Select Board Sewataro Subcommittee Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 PM.