

**Winthrop Comprehensive Planning Process
Recreation
May 11, 2009**

Board Attendance:

Patrice Putman
Andy Wess
Sarah Fuller
Ken Johnson
John Callinah
Brian Ketchen
Kristen Bartlett
Jack Kaiser
John Carpenter
Phil Locashio
Cornell Knight
Chris Huck

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the date for the next meeting has been changed to Wednesday, May 27th at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The topic will be Agriculture and Forestry.

Community attendance: Betsy Rowe, Aaron White, Don Beattie, Jeff Tracy, Melissa King

7:00pm— Meeting opens. Thanks to Chris for sending his preliminary draft of Chapter XX: Outdoor Recreation in Winthrop. All in attendance said they had had a chance to read it and were asked to please send corrections directly to Chris.

Patrice asked the group to brainstorm the recreational areas that Winthrop residents participate in to get a broad view of any recreational programs that the community might consider supporting either through funding or through marketing. The following is a listing of the areas identified.

Sport Recreation

Sculling/Rowing

Sailing/Boating/Motorboat

Canoe/Kayak

Fishing/Ice fishing

Hunting

Baseball

Hiking, Walking

Biking

Football- Flag & Contact

Snowmobiling

Rock Climbing

X Country Skiing

Snowshoeing

Sledding/Tobogganing

Frisbee (Ultimate)

Skating- Ice & Roller

Bocce Ball

Snowboarding

Kickball

Non-sport Recreation

Rugby

Picnicking

Volleyball

Camping

Badminton

Leaf peeping/scenic views

Swimming

Concerts

Skateboarding

Plein Air Painting

Softball

Photography

Pond Hockey

Fairs/Art Shows

Tennis

Craft Fairs

Soccer

Parades

Track & Field

Birding

Basketball

Cards (Cribbage, Bridge, etc)

ATV's

Playgrounds at Norcross and Schools

Road races- 5K

Ferris Wheel and Train

Horseback Riding

The group was then asked to develop some core principles that we should use when deciding which activities the community should support.

Core Principles

1. Need of a public fairground venue, land used for different purposes
2. Communications of opportunities, signage

3. Promote eco-tourism, Winthrop Lakes Region- Marketing- Centrally located
4. Tie in to downtown economy, use existing facilities
5. Regionalize- collaboration linkage
6. Commitment- management of resources such as the beach.
7. Multi-generational
8. Multi-use
9. Tie-in to the history of the community
10. Welcoming to visitors
11. Facilities- parking, bathrooms, food, coffee, bagels
12. Make licensing easier
13. Tie in to Health/Wellness
14. Protect the resource (ie don't market the trails or lakes up as great areas for recreation only to have them damaged by over or inappropriate use).

The group was then asked to consider opportunities for Economic Development possibilities. We divided the groups into four categories.

1. Summer -Land

Trails-hiking, biking, Birding, photography

Backpacking, camping

Fairs, Concerts

2. Summer- Water

Sailing, Boating Fishing, Kayaking (rentals), Swimming

Sailboat races

Bass Fishermen

3. Winter- land

Trails- x-country skiing, snow shoe

Adult sport leagues (non-economic dev)

4. Winter- ice

Winter games weekend event

Ice fishing, ice sailing

Ice rink on lake or land (non-economic dev)

Some key concepts that were discussed:

- Winthrop needs to be better marketed as a Lakes Region.
- The Winthrop Beach needs to be “recaptured” and better policed after hours (not always family friendly after the life guards leave)
- If we want a recreational economy, we need to make it easy to start a recreational or tourist business and allow vendors to sell food.
- We should work with our surrounding towns to create a regional recreational approach.
- We need to better market all recreational opportunities.

In the end, it became clear that, if we were going to make any significant effort toward a recreational economy or even just improving the recreational opportunities to our own citizens, we need to bring back – perhaps in a different form – the Recreation Committee. The previous Committee worked predominately to help Lonney Steeves make decisions about the Rec. Department and what might be offered through the Summer Rec. program. It apparently has not met in a couple of years since its Chair had become ill. What we are discussing here is a Committee with a bigger role – to support recreational opportunities throughout the community and perhaps the region. Participants were asked to get together to discuss the recreation of this committee. Aaron White, Don Beattie, Jeff Tracy, and Melissa King all offered to participate in this subcommittee. It was suggested that Andy Wess might want to be the Comprehensive Planning Committee’s liaison for this Committee. They were asked to meet within two weeks to begin discussing the three topics below. While no one offered to chair the committee, it was decided to get together and see what work could be done without a named chair. They should work with Lonney in this effort. They are asked to consider and eventually recommend:

1. A structure for a new or reconvened Recreational Committee
2. Goals and Objectives for the Committee
3. An outline for a Recreational Plan that can be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan

This subcommittee is asked to keep the Planning Committee apprised of its work through e-mail updates.

Next meeting **Wednesday, May 27th 7:00 Town Hall.**

Topic Agriculture and Forestry.