



Town of Abington

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Minutes

Board of Selectmen

May 23, 2022

Cotter Room

6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Alex Bezanson, Chair, Mike Kolodziej, Tim Chapin, Alex Hagerty, Scott Lambiase, Town Manager

Absent: Kevin DiMarzio

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A Moment of Silence was held for Katelyn McCarthy who died tragically on May 13, 2022, at the age of 18. Kate was supposed to be graduating from Abington High School this June. She was the cherished daughter of Lori Frost of Abington and John McCarthy of Stoughton. The Board thanked the first responders who dealt with this tragedy.

Public Announcements:

Mr. Hagerty: May 30th is Memorial Day. There is a ceremony at 9 a.m. at Mt. Vernon Cemetery, the Veterans' Lot.

He expressed condolences to the family and friends of Katelyn McCarthy. He attended the vigil at Arnold Park on May 20th and commended her friends on trying to do something good from this tragedy and talking out against any form of bullying.

Mr. Chapin: On June 24th there is a "Drive Thru to Get Thru" sponsored by the Veterans' Agent, for a free food give away for veterans at the Abington Senior Center, 441 Summer Street from 10 a.m. to noon.

1. Update on the Ames Nowell Master Plan Committee with Rick Collins. It is very overgrown and run down. There is no line item for Ames Nowell under DCR. There is a lot of renewed interest, and there have been several clean-ups recently. The Committee wants to document needs, goals and public safety needs. They will eventually form a Friends of Ames Nowell group for long term stewardship. The state is happy to have the help.
2. Abington COPES, Melissa Cook, 359 High Street, President, formerly Abington Substance Abuse Coalition – they would like to hold a 5K road race on September 18th at 9 a.m. The Police Chief is on board. Christie Coombs will help, as well as South Shore Race Management. Mr. Bezanson and Mr. Hagerty and both on the Board of Directors, but there is no financial gain. Motion by Mr. Kolodziej to grant permission to hold the race, seconded by Mr. Chapin, unanimous.

3. Vote to approve May 9, 2022, minutes – motion by Mr. Hagerty to approve, seconded by Mr. Kolodziej, unanimous.
4. Motion to approve and release executive session minutes on September 27, 2021, made by Mr. Hagerty, seconded by Mr. Kolodziej, unanimous.
5. Motion to appoint Finance Director Andrew Nocon as the town's Plymouth County ARPA Program Authorized Reporter/Preparer made by Mr. Kolodziej, seconded by Mr. Chapin, unanimous.
6. Discussion on charity choice per Host Community Agreement with Bud's Emporium. After a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Kolodziej to make the \$5,000 donation to the Abington Food Pantry, seconded by Mr. Hagerty, unanimous. There will be a different charity chosen each year.
7. Request to adjust fee schedules for Building, Plumbing & Gas, & Wiring – the proposed fees will be in line with other towns. Motion by Mr. Hagerty to adjust fees as amended, with demo fees \$15/\$1,000 per project cost, seconded by Mr. Kolodziej, unanimous.
8. Charter Review recommendations – Town Counsel will look at them before they go to the Charter Review Committee, then the Town Manager will send it. Some may be more relevant to by-law review.
9. Town Manager Report
 - Working with Town Counsel on a license agreement to allow a farmer to use five acres at Griffin Dairy to grow beans and potatoes. He has leased the property previously. This needs to go out in a bid process, but the farmer needs to get in there now. A revocable license agreement works in a similar manner until it can go out to bid, which hopefully will be next month.
 - Low bid for Exedra was \$18,500. They have \$55,000 between a grant and CPA money.
 - This is Sonia Hodge's last week. Lindsay Grasso, Assistant Treasurer, was offered and accepted the position of Treasurer/Collector. Deb Libby announced her intention to retire at the end of the month. She has been a valuable asset to the Treasurer's Office as well as the Finance Committee for many years. We wish Deb a wonderful retirement and thanked her for her years of dedication to the town.
 - Veterans' Agent would like the town to be a Purple Heart town. On Sunday, August 7th, there will be an unveiling of the Purple Heart sign that will be placed on Gliniewicz Way along the entrance to Town Hall. Signs will be placed at all the entrances to town, and John Stone will put them up. There will be a ceremony with as many of the Purple Heart recipients as possible. Adam Gunn, VSO, will be asked to come to the next meeting re recognition of Korean War veterans' ceremony to be held the end of June in conjunction with Whitman and Rockland.

- There are four police recruits in the academy that will be out in the fall and will start field training, and three more going in July and one transfer coming back to town. The Chief will be coming to the first meeting in June with an operational update.

Mr. Bezanson and Mr. Hagerty, Subcommittee on Policies and Procedures, had several meetings, tightening things up. Copies of the revisions were passed out for the Board's review for the next meeting. Town Counsel will also review this.

There will be training on June 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center for all board and committee members.

The Island Grove weed project will be going out to bid.

Steve Wright, Sanborn Head, our consultant for the landfill, will be coming to the second meeting in June to go over the land capping process.

Mr. Kolodziej requested the Griffin Dairy Committee come in to the next meeting regarding money for the well. He also inquired about a grant writer. Town Manager will send an email to boards/committees asking them to let the Selectmen's office know if there is a grant they need help with. Liz Shea and he have done a lot of grant writing.

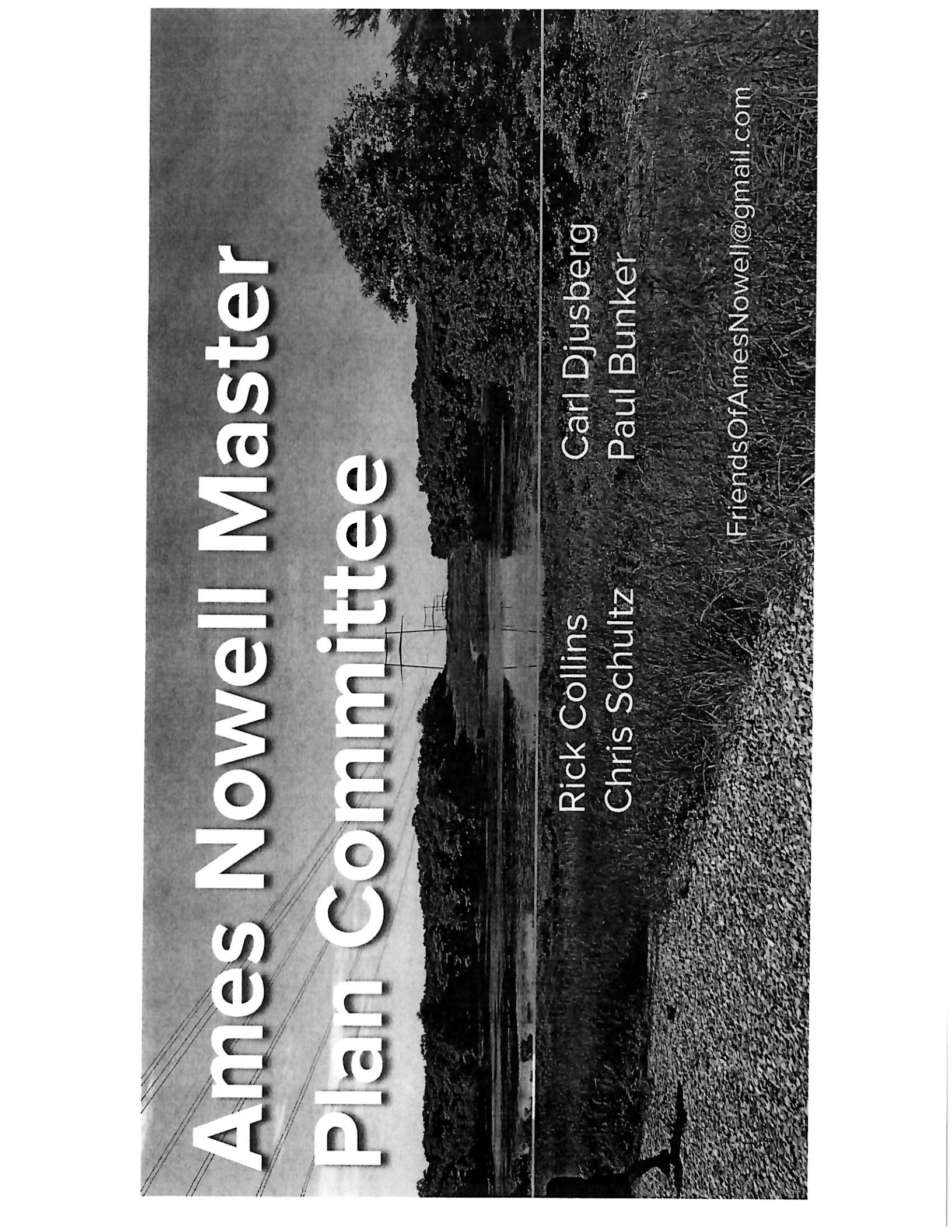
10. Motion by Mr. Kolodziej to enter into executive session in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 39, §23B to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel seconded by Mr. Chapin. Roll call vote: Mr. Hagerty, aye; Mr. Chapin, aye; Mr. Kolodziej, aye; Mr. Bezanson, aye.

Motion to enter back into open session made by Mr. Kolodziej, seconded by Mr. Hagerty. Roll call vote: Mr. Hagerty, aye; Mr. Chapin, aye; Mr. Kolodziej, aye; Mr. Bezanson, aye. Motion to approve a new contract for the Town Manager made by Mr. Kolodziej, seconded by Mr. Hagerty, unanimous. Mr. Chapin – the Board gave a five year contract to the Town Manager. The Selectmen have been happy with his work during his first contract and very willing to extend his contract for another five years.

Motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. made by Mr. Chapin, seconded by Mr. Hagerty, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy Hurst

A black and white photograph of a landscape. In the foreground, there's a gravelly or sandy area. In the middle ground, a river or stream flows, bordered by dense trees and vegetation. In the background, several power lines stretch across the sky. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Ames Nowell Master Plan Committee

Rick Collins
Chris Schultz

Carl Djusberg
Paul Bunker

FriendsOfAmesNowell@gmail.com

VISION STATEMENT

Ames Nowell State Park is a 600-acre state park that has the potential to offer a range of active and passive recreational opportunities, while also serving as an important environmental resource and critical wildlife habitat.



BACKGROUND

- One of town's first mills was along Beaver Brook south of modern day Chestnut Street.
 - Cleveland Pond as we know it created early 1900s by Edwin Holmes, who dammed southern end of the brook.
 - The area was a popular hunting ground, with goose and duck being sent into Boston.
 - Ames Nowell - Oliver Ames' grandson - bought Holmes' section and then consolidated ownership all around the pond in 1930s/1940s with hopes of creating a large bird sanctuary. Couldn't buy Pohrecky's land.
 - Turned into State Park in late 1960s; originally allowed camping by Boy Scouts, boating, swimming, guided tours
 - Since earliest days, been complaints from town about parties in parking lots at night, traffic down Linwood Street
 - Park nearly closed in 2004 as part of DCR budget cuts, but was saved, budget stripped, combined with Wampatuck.
-

Fading gem



■ The effects of budget cuts are apparent at Ames Norwell State Park, which is showing signs of neglect.

By Elaine Allard
Lovers of the wooded area around Ames Norwell State Park, which is showing signs of neglect, are not alone in their concerns.

ABINGTON — Ames Norwell State Park, which is showing signs of neglect, is not alone in its concerns. The park's future is uncertain as budget cuts continue to take their toll.

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Ames Norwell Park falls into disrepair

Budget cuts have eliminated rangers, left paths overgrown

By Joe McBride
The Patriot Ledger

Bill Curran looked around Ames Norwell Park in Abington while walking his dog this

week. "It blew me away. I didn't know this state park was that badly off,"

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Saturday/Sunday, August 14-15, 2004

The Patriot Ledger

Ames Norwell State Park

ABINGTON

visitors every year. Today, people from Brockton, Abington and surrounding towns still love to bicycle, jog and hike the preserve's trails. But budget cuts eliminated staffing and left walking paths overgrown, bathrooms shuttered and the park in general disrepair.

As part of a money-saving effort two years ago when the park's budget was level-funded, Ames Norwell was made into a satellite

township. That meant the park's full-time rangers were sent

Occasionally over the past

Please see PARK — Pa

Ames Norwell State Park

HOLBROOK
Chestnut St
North Quincy St
BROCKTON



Improvements planned for Ames Norwell

■ The state appropriates \$150,000 to make improvements to the recreational facility in Abington

By Elaine Allard
The Patriot Ledger

ABINGTON — Improvements to Ames Norwell State Park, the 600-acre recreational facility

reopened last year on June 30

The park is a destination for

The park is a destination for

Cleanup work to begin at Ames Norwell

■ Beginning April 1, the park is to be cleaned up

The Enterprise Saturday, Feb. 19, 2005



JANNINE SCIVOUR watched her fishing line along the edge of

Ames Norwell State Park in Abington

people that we can reduce

again down to 5 percent

we had a lot of people

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ★ Re-sparked citizen interest in the park
- ★ Re-engaged with DCR
- ★ Established active partnership with NEMBA
- ★ Held two volunteer cleanups
- ★ Removed overgrowth from dam shoreline
- ★ Broken grills/stands removed or replaced
- ★ Documented beaver flooding at north end of pond



KEY GOALS

- ★ IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY
- ★ FOCUS ON VISITOR SERVICES
- ★ EMBRACE ACTIVE OPPORTUNITIES
- ★ PROTECT ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS
- ★ PREPARE SHORT AND LONG-TERM
CAPITAL NEEDS



NEEDS - PUBLIC SAFETY

- Keep dam shoreline cleared
- Improve trail marking system, including park boundaries
- Improved signage on ATV/hunting bans
- More regular ranger presence



NEEDS - A BETTER VISITOR EXPERIENCE

- New permanent bathrooms
- Additional ranger hours
- Continued trail maintenance
- Updated print & digital maps
- Complete Pohrecky land taking; other land acqs.
- Complete trail around Cleveland Pond





NEEDS - EMBRACE ACTIVE REC OPPORTUNITIES

- Support creation of bike trails
- Evaluate opp to create x-country trail
- Promote canoe and kayak launch
- Establish regular bike/running races

NEEDS - ENVIRONMENTAL

- Test water quality
- Pursue weed maintenance plan
- Beaver control plan
- Acquire land to the north





SHORT-TERM GOALS

- Formally mark trails and sub-trails on west side of pond (public safety)
- Complete acquisition of Pohrecky property
- Create Friends of Ames Nowell group
- Secure state funding for new bathrooms (volunteer built?)
- Solidify DCR/state support by hosting tour

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Formally mark trails and sub-trails on east side of pond
- Complete formal pathway around Cleveland Pond
- Establish marker system recognizing property history
- Continue studying main/secondary entrance off Chestnut Street
- Revitalize picnic/field areas

