

C'est chouette!



It's a hoot!

Leisure, families and parks Committee

Meeting held on April 27, 2018

Attendance: Raymond Gagnon, Ronney Korman, Éric Deschenes, Trish Wood, Jacques Marcoux (Representing municipal council)

Overview

Geneviève Mathieu from the CSLE prepared and presented the Park André Gagnon (PAG) diagnostic that was completed in 2016. (see full document) In brief, Geneviève stated that the PAG was one of the best parks in the Eastern Townships and few improvements to existing infrastructure were needed. Geneviève explains that accompanying municipalities in a parks project is part of her mandate and suggests a timeline of 6-18 months to compile a proper long-term plan. She strongly encourages the committee to use what is currently in place and make updates / improvements. Geneviève confirms that government grants are renewed each year with an emphasis of supporting projects with an outdoor theme. Some of these suggestions are as follows (full list in document provided)

- Improvements to overall signage and a possibly align RNMV and River trails maps with the park plan
- Opening and closing hours of the park, emergency 811 number, and address of the park
- Include an email address to the Public Works and Parks Department so people can send their comments/improvements/in case something is broken
- Install a welcome panel at the Canoe/kayak port and include important information: services, restaurants, washrooms and the tourist guide and map of Potton.
- Improve lighting on baseball field
- Tennis courts need to be resurfaced

New Infrastructure:

Sliding area: A simple add-on to the PAG with limited costs to install and maintain. An attractive feature for families. Decision will need to be taken on the overall safety fence along the Missisquoi-River.

Deck Hockey: Youth soccer programs across Quebec have been experiencing a decrease in registrations and an increase in baseball registrations (Potton fits this analogy) In addition, there has been substantial increase in Deck-Hockey participation. If the grant request for the covered skating rink is approved, the municipality plans to keep the existing rink bands and possibly install a Deck Hockey rink. Committee is encouraged to consult local leagues and determine if Potton Deck hockey could be developed.

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Walking trails: Continue to develop loose gravel walking trails in the PAG, especially along the Missisquoi-River. Increase usage of the park and install BBQS and have an access road leading to the riverside so users can transport coolers, equipment ect. Possible develop this area in the future for rustic camping sites.

These trails could eventually become self-guided, interpretive trails with an educational component / floral fauna of the Missisquoi River.

Skating Paths: A simple install but regular maintenance required. Committee agrees that it could be an attractive feature to the PAG and if the roof is installed, the municipality will make a request to purchase a small Zamboni that could be used to maintain this skating path.

Special note: Municipal decision regrading plans to improve the PAG should be complimentary to the development plans at Owl's Head. We want to attract and encourage overnight guest at OHD to come and discover our town by offering something not available at the resort.

Next meeting & availability: A doodle will be sent.