

Parks Committee Meeting of June 13, 2008

The Parks Committee met on June 13, 2008 to discuss two issues. The first issue was a presentation by the Parks Department of the scope of work for the construction of the greenway connector from the intersection of Colonial Road and Wakeman Place to Shore Road in Owl's Head Park.

The purpose of this project is to update an already existing path to a shared pedestrian bicycle path. The updated path will be about twelve feet wide. This greenway connector will provide a proper link between the NYC DOT bike route at Shore Road and Colonial Road and the Shore Parkway Greenway at Shore Road and 68th Street.

The intent of this project is to replace asphalt pavement, add new fencing and curbs, paint and or replace lamp posts, reconstruct the drainage system, add signage, new plantings and grading. There will be seating placed in specific areas along the path. The slope will be stabilized and flooding issues from poor drainage will be resolved.

This project should begin in the Spring of 2009 and be coordinated with work being done on the Overlook in Owl's Head Park. The traffic problem at the corner of 68th Street and Shore Road was discussed. The Parks Department has recommended that the DOT put a stop sign on Shore Road or a traffic light. There is a stop sign on 68th Street, however, the corner is still a dangerous crossing for cyclists and pedestrians.

The Parks Committee unanimously approved the scope and design for the greenway connector.

The second issue on the agenda dealt with the temporary classrooms situated on parkland across the street from Telecommunications High School. The agreement in 1998 between the Parks Department and the School Construction Authority was that the temporary classrooms would be in place for one year. When the classrooms were removed, the School Construction Authority was supposed to restore and then improve the parkland. The temporary classrooms have been on the property for ten years. No students are housed in these classrooms. Recently the School Construction Authority and the custodian of Telecommunications High School took over the buildings for their own use. This is in direct violation of the original agreement.

The Parks Committee felt that the School Construction Authority must be forced to remove the temporary classrooms immediately and set forth a plan for the restoration and improvement of the property as agreed upon ten years ago. The committee wants a letter sent to Sharon Greenberger the President and CEO of the School Construction Authority expressing our dissatisfaction with the use of these temporary classrooms. The Committee felt that it is essential that our position be made very clear to the SCA. We want the SCA to live up to their original agreement with no excuses.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor M. Petty, Chairperson

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