



**TOWN OF GORDONSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
MINUTES**

**Thursday, July 6, 2017**

**5:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Coiner called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**Roll Call:**                   **Present**  
Mayor Robert Coiner  
Vice-Mayor Emily Winkey  
Councilmember James Bradley  
Councilmember Christopher Colby  
Councilmember Elizabeth Samra

Council enjoyed dinner provided by the Town Clerk.

*Discussion of Master Plan Development for Verling Park/Allen Street Park Corridor*

Peter Hujik, Piedmont Environmental Council, briefed Council on the development of a master plan for Verling Park and Dix Memorial Pool. Mr. Hujik noted that PEC is willing to be the lead on plan development if Council desires them to be, and indicated that they would be working with Land Planning and Design to develop the park plan from input provided by the Town.

Council discussed the redevelopment of the pool and prior fundraising efforts in that regard. Mayor Coiner reiterated the importance of moving forward with this project given that Dix Pool is the only public pool in the region.

Mr. Hujik stated that the Virginia Land Conservation Fund has grant money available for park development and noted that it is a 50/50 match program. He stated the application deadline is August 10<sup>th</sup> and informed Council that PEC would be willing to write the grant application on behalf of the Town. Mr. Hujik also noted there may be a donor who would be willing to provide the funds needed for the Town's 50% match for the grant.

Council discussed the proposed scope of work for the park development project, clarifying that the first phases of project development should focus on the redevelopment of the pool and Verling Park, with subsequent phases addressing other possible enhancements, such as sidewalk improvements along Allen Street to improve connectivity between Verling Park and the Firemen's Fairgrounds. Council also discussed long-term park needs for the Town, acknowledging that possible long-term future growth and development in the Town could be

such that Verling Park becomes a neighborhood park for the Town and another larger facility is developed to provide park needs for Town residents and those living in the region.

Council discussed the redevelopment of the park and the pool, specifically discussing the size of the pool and what it needs to be to meet the needs of the community and the swim team. Council also discussed features of a redesigned park, including a tennis court, a challenge course, and updated playground equipment.

Council discussed the various action items related to park plan development. Councilmember Colby volunteered to reach out to CSX about acquiring the Verling Park property. With regard to additional park planning committee members, Council agreed by consensus that they would serve as the committee and gain public input through community meetings and the release of a survey. With regard to community meeting dates, Council agreed by consensus that the dates of July 26<sup>th</sup>, August 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> would work best. Councilmembers Colby and Samra agreed to come up with a draft community survey for Council's review.

Council acknowledged that the development of a plan for park and pool improvements, as discussed, would be coordinated on behalf of the Town by the PEC, and that Land Planning and Design Associates (LPDA) is the firm that PEC would work with for plan development, based on input from the Town. Council also acknowledged that donated funds have been secured for the work, and any contractual relationship in this regard would be between LPDA and PEC.

Council also further discussed obtaining funding from the Virginia Land Conservation Fund for park development. Mr. Hujik stated that PEC will draft the grant application on behalf of the Town and will work to secure a private donation that will serve as the Town's match for the grant.

Staff agreed to bring the action items as discussed to Council for their consideration at their July meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Coiner adjourned the work session at 7:55 p.m.

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Robert K. Coiner, Mayor

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Janet W. Jones, Town Clerk