

Madison Borough

Minutes of the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Advisory Committee
Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022

Present: Debbie Mantone, Jill Rhodes, George Limbach, Chris Kellogg, Brian Monaghan, and Astri Baillie, Acting Chair

Excused: Kirsten Wallenstein, Ross Snyder and Melissa Honohan, Christine Boyle

Astri Baillie, Acting Chair, called the zoom meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The one item on the agenda was the continued discussion of the location for pickleball courts in Madison. Jim Burnet, CFO of Madison, Mayor Bob Conley, and Council Member Bob Landrigan led the presentation.

A power point was presented of potential locations for pickleball courts in Madison, funding for the project and the number of people of all ages who are now playing pickleball in Madison. The courts will also be configured for a basketball court with handicap accessibility to the nets.

The Pickleball Committee chaired by Dutch Holland concluded there were two appropriate sites: the MRC parking lot directly across from the turf field parking lot and a location near the Madison High tennis courts and the new handicap accessible trail. The funding for either site would come from a combination of Madison Basketball funds, Open Space Funds and a capital expenditure in 2023.

Brian Monaghan asked the Mayor which site he preferred. The Mayor stated he preferred the site near the high school tennis courts. Chris Kellogg asked if the area below MRC 2 was a possibility. Jim Burnet indicated that grading, size, and emergency access eliminated that site from consideration.

Regarding the two sites under consideration, concerns were expressed that using the parking lot site would eliminate parking spaces; however, there would be less environmental disturbance. The site near the tennis courts would involve cutting down a number of trees and the entire cost estimated at \$180,000 has increased to approximately \$200,000. The Open Space funding request is for \$80,000. There was also concern for stormwater run-off and the use of heavy equipment and possible damage to the tree roots.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made, and seconded that the committee recommend to Madison Borough Council that \$80,000 of Open Space funding be approved for the pickleball project. The motion passed with one no vote. A motion to approve the site near the high school tennis courts as the preferred site for the pickleball courts, the motion was seconded and passed with recommendations. The recommendations include:

1. The borough should replace trees as required by the Tree ordinance which does not require the Borough to comply but the Mayor indicated he would make that recommendation.
2. Protect the site from careless heavy equipment use.
3. Rain gardens should be considered and built to lessen the impact of stormwater run-off.
4. A plan must be in place and followed for stormwater run-off.

Mr. Landrigan as Council Liaison to the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Advisory Committee will communicate the committee's vote and recommendations. To Madison Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Astri Baillie