

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2011
5:15pm, Tucker Room

Present: Ray Andresen (chair), Ed Libby, Molly Mulhern, Jeff Kuller, Martin Cates (Select Board liaison)

Excused: Sharon Gilbert, David Olivas, Brian Robinson, Beth Ward

Guest: Ry Hills (Megunticook Rowing)

Ray opened the meeting at 5:25pm

Guest Discussion: Ry Hills said that Megunticook Rowing will be going before the Select Board in the next few weeks to renew its license for using Barrett's Cove. She will be asking the Board for a 5-year revocable license instead of the existing 1-year revocable license. The Committee supports this change. She also reported that Megunticook Rowing had another successful season, is aiming to start operations by May 1, and has applied for 501(C) non-profit status.

Committee Reports

RMRA Redevelopment: Nothing new to report.

US National Toboggan Championships™: Jeff reported that the just-concluded championships were the most successful ever — with the most registered competitors, most visitors, most sponsors, most sponsorship income, most vendors, most vendor income, best publicity, and best financial results for the Snow Bowl. Preliminary net income from the three-day event was \$60,000, up from \$42,000 the previous year. Gross income was about \$87,000. There were no significant injuries or problems, but among the issues to be addressed for next year will be the location and number of shuttle bus pickups (there was a 90-minute wait at the Firehouse) and the serving of alcoholic beverages. Ed Libby reported that passengers on the shuttle buses were very happy with the whole event and many thought the Friday night fireworks were "the best ever." Ray noted that there were many more volunteers this year, which helped make the whole weekend go much more smoothly. The Committee also discussed the possibility of the town hiring an event manager in the future if the Championships continue to grow.

Other Business:

Financial Report: Jeff reported that revenues are up \$40,000 from last year and expenses are down \$5,000 from 2010, which means "we are on track for a spectacular year."

Snow Bowl: The new Nordic Ski Trail opened in February, but signage and grooming for it need to be improved. Expect the Snow Bowl to be extremely busy next week during school vacation, but there should be a dramatic dropoff after that. Molly inquired about the injury rate at the Snow Bowl, and Jeff said we probably average one injury per day, and that the soft snow this year has meant fewer injuries.

Other Operations: The new Skating Rink at the Amphitheatre has been busy since it opened. The lacrosse leagues are looking for more time on the Snow Bowl playing field, which means Jeff needs to convene a meeting of all interested parties to discuss field conditions, upkeep, schedules, etc. The possibility of eventually installing artificial turf was discussed.

Upcoming events. Third annual winter downhill bike race will be held on Feb. 27

Molly moved that the meeting be adjourned, Ed seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously at 6:18 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 9 at 5:15 pm in the Washington Street Conference Room.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen