

**Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes September 2, 2015**  
**Washington Street Conference Room**

**Present:** Ray Andresen (chair), Landon Fake, Casey Heard, Jim Heard, Brian Robinson, Geoff Scott, and Jessie Tobias. Excused: Maureen Gordon, Emily McDevitt, David Olivas, and Beth Ward.

*Ray opened the meeting at 5:32 pm.*

**Minutes:** Casey moved to accept the July 29 minutes, Brian seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Ragged Mountain Redevelopment:** Landon reported that the parking lot is almost finished, that regarding of the carpet lift slope is being done, that George Krueger will be back working on the double-chair lift soon, that the electricians will be at the Snow Bowl later this week, and that load-testing will be done in mid-October. Casey questioned about the lodge schedule and Landon said that RMRA is not ready to break ground on the new lodge, but that renderings of the future lodge will be available. Jessie suggested that extra room in the current lodge could be opened up by having the food service vendor (or other vendors) offering hot chocolate, other beverages, and some grilled foods outside on the deck area, with appropriate seating.

**National Toboggan Championships:** Landon reported that 70-80 volunteers and prospects attended the volunteer barbecue at the Snow Bowl.

**Pathways:** Geoff reported that the long-awaited ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Camden Riverwalk at the old Tannery site will take place on Sept. 12 from 10 am to noon. He added that the pieces of the puzzle for the Seabright section are coming together and that the players include Coastal Mountains Land Trust and the Wastewater Department. Two issues for the Seabright section uncovered during the Property Tour (see below) are the need for more parking and some way to dispose of dog poop bags. Geoff distributed copies of the Guiding Principles for Development and Use of the Riverwalk. After much discussion, it was decided to accept these Principles with a few suggestions added to the Encouraged and Discouraged Developments and Uses for the Riverwalk. The Committee thanked Geoff and the Pathways Committee for preparing these Principles.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Snow Bowl Budget:** Landon reported that ski season tickets go on sale October 1 and that the Early Bird Special will last the entire month of October. Brian suggested we get a press release out about the schedule, new rates, fall chairlift rides, pancake breakfasts, etc. The Committee questioned the difference between Summer Rec Program revenues (\$18,000) and expenses (\$32,000).

**OLDBUSINESS**

**Strategic Planning Seminar:** Landon will have a full report for the Committee at a future meeting on the short- and long-term strategic plan for the Snow Bowl that came out of this seminar.

**Tannery Work Group:** Ray reported that the Group has not met since the middle of August and some members have expressed frustration about the process.

**Property Tour:** Ray distributed copies of the key observations made during our Property Tour of the Camden Riverwalk (old Tannery site) on Washington Street, Seabright Park, Shirttail Point Park, the Bog Bridge Boat Ramp, and Barrett's Cove. Ray will schedule a second Tour to cover Laite Beach, Camden Bog Maiden Cliff, the Route 52 Boat Ramp, the Mount Battie trail entrance on Megunticook Street, and other properties that weren't covered on the first Tour.

**Sports Fields:** Landon reported that the Five-Town Football season has started.

**Tennis Courts:** The idea of converting the tennis courts into paddle tennis courts and moving them to another location has been raised.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Swimming Advisory:** Landon reported that a swimming advisory has been posted at Laite Beach due to high bacterial counts in the water, possibly due to a combination of warm water, no rainfall, and discharges from all of the boats in the harbor this summer. He distributed copies of the test results for Laite Beach and other swimming areas.

**New Website:** Landon reported that the new Park-Rec website should be operational by Oct. 1.

*The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.*

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, Oct. 7.

*Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen*