

**Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**June 20, 2012**  
**5:15 pm, Washington Street Conference Room**

**Present:** Ray Andresen (chair), Peter Brown, Pete Conover, Jim Heard (Select Board liaison), Jeff Kuller, Brian Robinson, Geoff Scott. Excused: Beth Ward, Ed Libby. Absent: David Olivas.

*Ray Andresen opened the meeting at 5:19 pm.*

**Minutes:** Peter Brown moved to accept the May 9, 2012 minutes as presented, Pete Conover seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**US National Toboggan Championships®:** Nothing new to report.

**RMRA Redevelopment:** Jeff Kuller reported that the July art auction is proceeding as planned. He added that the new septic system project is moving forward, with bids due shortly from four contractors. He also noted that the chairlift equipment purchased from Shawnee Peak needs to be moved very soon from Bridgton and stored somewhere in the Camden area. Possible storage locations could be the Tannery site on Washington Street or behind the Wayfarer Annex on Town property off Route 1.

**Pathways:** Geoff Scott reported that the Rockport Select Board approved going forward with the grant application for a sidewalk extension on Route 1 from Camden Street to the bus stop at Maritime Energy and possibly as far as Leonard's in Rockport. There will be a walkthrough of the proposed sidewalk area by the Maine Dept. of Transportation. Geoff also reported that discussions are ongoing about where the planned sidewalk extension to Shirrtail Point should cross Washington Street. Geoff also noted that the West Bay Rotary will consider a grant application for the Tannery Riverwalk but not for the Rockport Harborwalk because that's a town budget item.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Snow Bowl:** Jeff Kuller reported that it still looks like the Snow Bowl net operating loss will be about \$75,000 for the year ending on June 30.

**Parks and Recreation:** As of a June 19th budget report the various Parks and Rec budgets are showing a collective surplus of about \$50,000. Jeff is working on a plan to carry forward much of those unspent funds for purchases such as picnic tables, an outdoor grill for the lodge, tools, the repaired lodge canopy, a generator, etc. Additional projects he would like to dedicate the funds toward include unfinished work on trails, ditches, and a new machine-built bike/hike trail. He will also save some funds to contribute to the Parks Equipment Reserve. He will be working with the Town Manager to finalize the plan.

**Rental Rates:** The Committee discussed current rental rates for the Snow Bowl Lodge, which haven't changed in at least eight years. It was suggested that the rates could be increased from \$400 to \$600 per day for non-residents, but remain at \$400 for Camden residents. It was also suggested that the rates could be at different levels based on the number of people attending an event or if the renter was a non-profit organizations. In the end, the Committee asked Jeff to prepare a new proposed rate schedule for review at an upcoming meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Property Brochure:** Ray Andresen reported that he and Ed Libby did a drive-by inspection of most of the Park-Rec properties to be included in the brochure. He noted that some clearing work could be done at the Harbor Avenue Overlook, that the kiosk at Bog Bridge should be moved to a more visible location, and that the kiosk at the Route 52 Boat Ramp needs to be repaired. Ray will prepare a complete report of their observations for Jeff. The Committee also discussed the need to create signs or markers for some of these properties, noting that we might want to make them consistent with the new downtown signage program and/or include QR codes.

**Shirrtail Point:** Ray reminded everybody that there will be an open meeting on June 26 to solicit ideas and concerns from the public about possible improvements to the Shirrtail Point Park. An email reminder will be sent to committee members as well as the Pathways and Conservation committees.

**Playing Fields:** Jeff reported that everything is in good shape for the summer and that the organic fertilization and overseeding supported by the high school groundskeeper, as well as closing the field when it is saturated with water, appears to be working well.

**Summer Rec Program:** Jeff reported that there are only about 10 spaces left before the July 2 program start.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Dogs at Hosmer Pond:** Ray read a letter from Ann Pixley complaining about the large number of dogs running unleashed near the popular access location on Hosmer Pond, and the inability of their “owners” to keep them under control. After much discussion, it was decided that the Parks and Recreation Department should impose the same regulations at the Hosmer Pond Beach as have been adopted for Laite Beach, Barrett’s Cove, and Shirttail Point: From May 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept 30<sup>th</sup> dogs are allowed at those sites only before 8:00 AM and after 6:00 PM.

**Maiden Cliff:** Jeff reported that several town employees were planning to hike up the Maiden Cliff trail, cut and remove deadfall, and repaint the cross on Friday, June 22 as part of a wellness day project.

**Other Projects:** Jeff noted that several paving stones at the Village Green need to be reset. He also said that the new 22 Tacks Trail is open with some boardwalk across wet sections. The permanent solution to the wet spots on 22 Tacks will be additional culverts and some ditching, which the department is planning to do later in the summer.

**Upcoming Events:** The RMRA Redevelopment Auction will be held on July 12. The items are currently available to bid on through the Bidding For Good website. The Ragged Mountain Fat Tire Festival will take place on July 14-15. The Walker Bros. Circus will be held in the Snow Bowl parking lot on July 26. The annual Lake Megunticook Canoe Race will be held on July 29th. The Ragged Mountain Runaround, a new trail running race, will be held at the Snow Bowl on August 12th.

*Peter Brown motioned to adjourn at 6:45 pm, Pete Conover seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.*

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at 5:15pm in the WSCR

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen and reviewed by Jeff Kuller.