

**Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**January 7, 2015**  
**Washington Street Conference Room**

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

*Ray opened the meeting at 5:15 pm.*

**Minutes:** Jessie moved to accept the December 17 minutes , Casey seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Ragged Mountain Redevelopment:** Landon reported that some progress is being made on getting the mountain ready for skiing: 10 chairs were hanged on the triple-chair lift today, we started making snow on some trails yesterday, and there is enough snow for the racing program to begin training tomorrow. A “soft opening” is planned for this Saturday (January 10), but only the carpet lift may be ready for use. Although the mountain opened for skiing on Dec. 19 last year, this is the latest opening in at least 10 years. However, the lifts have not been operational until mid-January in many of those years. In addition, there are still some issues with the pumps, the double-chair lift, and the placement of some snow guns.

Among options being discussed to placate season passholders are reciprocal deals with Saddleback and other ski areas. The Committee also discussed the possibility of extending the season until the end of March, if possible; keeping the mountain open for skiing until 7 p.m. five days a week; and extending hours during the “grand opening” to meet pent-up demand.

The need for more open, timely communication with Snow Bowl customers and local citizens was discussed. Beth will send talking points to the committee for use in answering any questions or complaints that we receive from members of the community.

Bill Buchholz, the new chairman of the Hosmer Pond Association, recently sent a mostly positive letter to the Parks and Recreation Department regarding the redevelopment project and its effect on Hosmer Pond. Landon will forward the letter to the Committee.

Brian asked how many days of lift-service terrain have been available in recent years, saying this would be a good measuring stick for year-to-year comparisons.

Casey volunteered to set up a “thank you” party by bringing “goodies” out to the crew working on getting the mountain ready this weekend, and she will take charge of getting others to bring food and hot beverages out to the crew on a regular basis until the work is complete.

Jessie Tobias volunteered to compose a rough draft of a letter to the editor from the Park-Rec Committee praising the work crew.

Landon added that the Select Board at its January 6 meeting went over the finances for the redevelopment project. So far, the Town has paid out \$4.78 million and been reimbursed \$3.45 million from the Ragged Mountain Foundation, leaving a \$1.25 million deficit before the voter-approved \$2 million bond has been issued. That money will be coming out of the Town’s surplus fund until the bond is issued.

**National Toboggan Championships:** Beth reported that everything is coming together nicely. Registrations for the 2-person, 3-person, and 4-person teams are filling up fast. Sponsorships have already reached \$22,000, compared with \$18,000 last year, and could hit the goal of \$28,000. The pond is already frozen. There will be racing on Friday again this year, and there will be a \$6,000 fireworks display over Camden harbor on Saturday night. The Toboggan Committee also has negotiated with the school district for 6 buses on Saturday and 3 on Sunday for transporting people from the Town Green to the Snow Bowl.

**Pathways:** Geoff reported that the RTP grant application for the Seabright Section of the Camden Riverwalk was submitted and received, but we won't hear back for a while.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Snow Bowl Operations:** Landon noted that the increase in part-time personnel expenses, primarily for getting the mountain ready for skiing, will be paid by the Town and not reimbursed by the Ragged Mountain Foundation. He added that we have had to refund some prepaid fees for Christmas ski school programs that were not held.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Committee Goals:** The Committee reviewed its list of goals for 2015. Geoff suggested that we add the Middle School to this list since part of the contemplated Riverwalk crosses school property, which also includes playing fields that could be available for recreational use.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Upcoming Events:** The highly successful cardboard box races will be held on March 14-15.

**Next Meeting:** February 4, 2015 at 5:15 p.m. in the Washington Street Conference Room.

*Casey moved that the meeting be adjourned, Brian seconded the motion, and it was approved 5-0 at 6:35 p.m.*

*Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen*