

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

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

Ray opened the meeting at 5:35 pm.

Minutes: Casey moved to accept the Sept. 2 minutes, Maureen seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: Landon reported that work on the double-chair lift is progressing and is the last major project awaiting completion before the ski season. He added that the triple-chair worked fine during its fall season debut on October 4. A total of 95 adults and 37 kids rode to the top of the mountain that day, producing \$1,135 in ticket sales. So far only 6 nameplates have been installed on the triple chairs; a total of 65 have been purchased, with 160 available for both the double- and triple-chair lifts. Landon noted that the mountain's erosion controls came through OK during the recent deluge (8.6" of rain), with one culvert getting plugged up a little and a channel being dug out near the carpet lift. Several committee members commented on the beautiful wildflowers scattered around the slope. An RMRA fundraiser will be held at Flatbread Pizza on Tuesday, Oct. 20 starting at 5 p.m.

National Toboggan Championships: The committee will begin meeting later this month. Registration for the 2016 event will begin in November.

Pathways: Geoff reported that everything is going fine with the Seabright project. The Planning Board reviewed the plan and made some small changes; the permits are all in; and the Maine Conservation Corps is scheduled to begin work on the pathway at the end of the month. There will be plenty of work for volunteers on the weekend of Nov. 7-8. The pathway will be six-feet wide and feature the same surface material that was used on the Tannery section. Geoff added that more than 100 people turned out for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Tannery section of the Camden Riverwalk.

Tannery Work Group: Ray reported that the Group is still waiting to resume its meetings. Some possibilities that have been suggested for the site include a farmers market and playground; a pavilion with art space and studios; a college; and a museum. The Work Group is waiting for the results of an environmental followup study to be done on the site. The Committee asked Ray to contact the Town Manager and request that it be kept informed of the environmental study and results.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Snow Bowl Budget: Landon reported that everything is pretty much on budget. He noted that \$18,000 in revenue from the Summer Program does not get added in until next June, which is also the biggest month for Lodge revenue. As of October 1, early bird ticket sales were \$15,929. Landon added that there have been no complaints so far about the increase in ticket prices. Beth is now able to load everything — pass info, credit card info, gift shop items, product sales, various ticket options, etc. — into the new POS system.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning Seminar: Landon still needs to send a final draft of the plan to the Park-Rec Staff and Committee. .

Website: The new website is up and running and looks great. Committee suggested that the picture with a bar and drinks be deleted, and that new pictures of Camden in winter be added. Key messages on website should promote Camden as the best ski town in Maine and the Snow Bowl as being family-friendly and having fantastic views of the ocean. Landon asked that any more suggestions regarding the website be sent to him.

Property Tour: Ray distributed copies of key observations made during the second session of the Property Tour, which included stops at Laite Beach, Camden Bog, the Mount Battie trail entrance on Megunticook Street, and the Bay Road, Eaton Avenue, Harbor Road, and Marine Avenue Overlooks. Since maintenance costs are critical to making any additions or improvements on these properties, the Committee suggested that the Department seek an increase in the maintenance budget during the next session of Budget Hearings. Casey asked what can be done about any discharges into the ocean from houses along bay View Street. There was further discussion about water conditions at Laite Beach and throughout the Harbor. It was suggested that the Committee prioritize the projects it would like to see done first, second, third, etc. The best weekday for continuing the Property Tour would be Mondays at 8:45 am.

Logo: Landon distributed copies of the proposed new logo for the Parks and Recreation Department. He has reviewed it with the design committee from the Downtown Business Network Board. The first use of this new insignia will be at Maiden Cliff and Hodson Park, with the goal to eventually have it incorporated into signs at all Town parks.

Parks Guide: The map and guide need to be updated and added to the website.

Sports Fields: Landon reported that fields endured the recent rains very well, but there was some washout by the entrance road. Five-Town Football is continuing to use the sports field. The old warming hut has become an eyesore and is waiting for someone to move it, possibly to the Camden-Rockport Historical Society.

Tennis Courts: Although the courts are still being, it will cost lots of dollars to bring them back into good playable condition. It was suggested that if we had courts somewhere else, the space could be used for parking. Landon added that Karen Brace is still looking at what could be done with the courts.

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming Events: Chairlift rides and pancake breakfasts will continue every Sunday in October.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 4.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen