

## Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2013

5:15 pm, Washington Street Conference Room

**Present:** Ray Andresen (chair), Pete Brown, Landon Fake, Casey Heard, Jim Heard, Ed Libby, David Olivas, Brian Robinson, Beth Ward.

Ray Andresen opened the meeting at 5:17 pm.

**Minutes:** The minutes were corrected as follows: the Snow Bowl Budget report was changed from “\$190,000 — or \$70,000 over budget” to “\$120,000 — or \$50,000 over last year” and the Senior Programs report was changed from “Pete Brown mentioned” to “Ed Libby mentioned.” Pete Brown moved that the September 11 minutes be approved as amended, Ed Libby seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

**Membership:** Pete Conover has resigned as a Committee alternate. Anyone interested in joining the Committee should apply at the Town Office.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Ragged Mountain Redevelopment:** Beth Ward reported that the RMRA finally reached its \$4.5 million goal during a special fundraising party at the Waterfront Restaurant when another 20 ski lift chairs were sold in less than an hour, raising \$400,000 (including matching funds). That sets the stage for the November 5 ballot issue re the \$2 million bond to complete the \$6.5 million redevelopment project at the Snow Bowl. Key talking points for supporting the ballot issue were distributed. One key point is that the \$2 million bond translates into a property tax increase of only \$8 to \$9 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Another key point is that the RMRA and Town commissioned an economic impact study that shows the Snow Bowl contributes more than \$3 million to the local economy each year. Beth added that the RMRA will continue to raise funds, hoping to increase its endowment supporting the Snow Bowl to \$1 million.

**National Toboggan Championships:** Beth reported that the Toboggan Committee is seeking sponsors for the 2014 event and is looking into changes for the timing system, new bibs, and program printing. Instead of having the Free Press or Herald Gazette publish the program, we may do it ourselves to capture the advertising money and pay the papers to distribute it as an insert. West Bay Rotary will be painting the outside of the chute this fall, and the chute will be lighted for racing on Friday evening. The beer-tasting event is also scheduled for Friday.

**Pathways:** The Maine Conservation Corps will be working on the Megunticook Riverwalk at the old Tannery sit from Oct. 16 to Oct. 30. Jackson Landscaping is currently prepping the area. The cement slab overlook, which needs safety railings, will be completed in the spring.

**Public Landing/Riverwalk:** Ray reported that T.Y. Lin will present its final report to the Select Board in November. He also noted that a group of students from Camden Hills Regional High School approached the Select Board with the idea of connecting a small generator to the Montgomery Dam (near the Public Landing), and will work with the Dam Committee to pursue the idea further.

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Snow Bowl Operations:** Beth reported that the Sunday chairlift rides brought in \$2,600 on the first Sunday of October. The lift rides go from 9:00 to 4:00 every Sunday in October, coinciding with the Sunday pancake breakfasts run by the Ragged Mountain Ski and Snowboard Club from 8:30 to 10:30.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Shirt Tail Point:** Ray distributed a list of suggested improvements to be recommended to the Select Board. Jim Heard suggested adding shade trees over the parking area.

**Water Quality:** Ed Libby reported that we don't know why Laite Beach had such high bacteria counts this summer. He added that all houses in the area are connected to sewer lines and that there was no difference between the Yacht Club and Laite Beach. Ed also mentioned that no additional testing was being done after the summer season and that the Town may need to pay for testing the beaches next year due to the sequester on federal funding.

**RALA:** Ray reported that a Rural Access Living Assessment, or RALA, will take place on the morning of Wednesday, Oct. 16 and encouraged Committee members to participate.

**Senior Programs:** Pete Brown noted that since Camden is now an ACE community, we could use ACE (Active Community Environment) for information and data on senior programs in other communities. Pete, Ed and Beth will work on developing ideas for senior programs to be presented to the entire Committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Goals:** Pete Brown suggested that we start tracking goals for the coming year, beginning with Shirt Tail Point.

Pete Brown moved the meeting be adjourned, Ed Libby seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0 at 6:32 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013 at 5:15pm in the WSCR.

*Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen*