

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2013

5:15 pm, Washington Street Conference Room

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

Ray Andresen opened the meeting at 5:27 pm.

Minutes: Pete Brown moved that the October 9 minutes be approved, Brian Robinson seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: Following the successful passage of the \$2 million bond referendum, Landon Fake met with project engineer Will Gartley (of Gartley and Dorsky) and Fitzy (William Fitzcharles) to stake out the designated start and finish of the new 3-chair lift and the relocated double-chair lift. Gartley's first project is to get everything nailed down on plans, then start securing permits, begin the Planning Board review process, and put the lift installations out to bid. Brian Robinson noted that the Ragged Mountain Ski & Snowboard Club will hold its annual auction and dinner next Thursday (Nov. 21). Landon is also looking into a forest management plan for Ragged Mountain, since a lot of large trees will have to be cut for the new lift lines and trails.

National Toboggan Championships: Beth Ward reported that registrations have been coming in steadily since the sign-up period began on Oct. 15.

Pathways: Geoff Scott reported that people are now using the new Riverwalk at the Old Tannery site and that the Maine Construction Corps (MCC) will return next spring to finish work on the cement overlook section. After some discussion about new signs and a grand opening celebration, it was decided to let the Pathways Committee plan an official opening for next spring. Costs for the Tannery Riverwalk project to date are about \$7,300 for materials and \$12,000 for MCC. Total allocation was \$23,000 for the project. Geoff also mentioned that the Select Board voted to go ahead with a grant application for the Seabright Dam to Mt. Battie Street section of the Riverwalk. The next stage after that will be the Middle School section.

Public Landing/Riverwalk: The final report from T.Y. Lin is now on the Town website and will serve as the guiding document for future plans for the Riverwalk and Public Landing.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Snow Bowl Operations: Beth reported that season pass sales are looking good so far. The Department is looking at charging a fee for seniors aged 70 and over, who now ski for free. The Committee recommended that Camden residents aged 70 and over and Camden children under age 5 should continue to receive free passes. Beth added that income from summer chair lift rides was \$13,500, a nice \$3,500 over budget. The Snow Bowl also received tentative approval from the RMRA for \$6,000 for a wireless setup in the lodge and \$2,500 for work on the Terrain Park. In addition, Fire Chief Chris Farley was asked to bring out a new mast antenna for hookup on the lodge chimney.

OLD BUSINESS

Shirt-Tail Point: Ray met with Doug Johnson of the Conservation Commission to review proposed ideas for improving Shirt-Tail Point Park.

Sports Field: All activities are done for the year, and the field looks good. John Novak will do one more fertilization before the snow falls..

Senior Programs: Pete Brown and Ed Libby will meet tomorrow (Oct. 10) to begin developing ideas for senior programs to be presented to the entire Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Parks Brochure: Ed Libby suggested that we plan to reprint the brochure next year since we have already distributed 7,000 of the 10,000 that were printed last year. Funds will need to be appropriated for a reprint. The brochure is on the Town website, not the Park-Rec website.

Committee Goals: A copy of the Committee Goals for 2013 was sent to Landon. New goals for 2014 will be discussed at the December meeting.

Land's End: Ray summarized findings from the recent site visit, including the need to cut some downed trees for safety reasons and the idea of improving trails at Land's End and connecting them to the Coast Mountains Land Trust property on Fernald's Neck. Landon said he has already discussed this possibility with Ian Stewart of CMLT.

Upcoming Events: The annual Ski Club Auction will be Thursday, Nov. 21; the Ski Swap will take place on Nov. 23-24; and Winter Staff Orientation will be on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Ed Libby moved the meeting be adjourned, Pete Brown seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0 at 6:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013 at 5:15pm in the WSCR.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen