

**Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**November 4, 2015**  
**Washington Street Conference Room**

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

*Ray opened the meeting at 5:35 pm.*

**Minutes:** Brian moved to accept the Oct. 7 minutes, Emily seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Ragged Mountain Redevelopment:** Landon reported that the parking lot is done and that the double-chair lift was up and running today. It still needs some tweaks, but should be load-tested before Thanksgiving.

**National Toboggan Championships:** Ray reported that reservations for the 26<sup>th</sup> annual toboggan championships will open on Nov. 16. This year's toboggan championships on Feb. 5-7 will once again follow the Camden Winterfest, and the theme for this year's two-weekend celebration will be Midcoast Mardi Gras. Ray added that there will be no chili challenge or down the chute beer-tasting activities at the Snow Bowl this year, but that Camden Rotary is planning to hold the chili challenge at a downtown location.

**Pathways:** Geoff reported that construction of the Seabright section of the Camden Riverwalk is going well, and that the Maine Conservations Corps crew is living at the Snow Bowl while working on the project. There will be an opportunity for volunteers to help at Seabright this weekend (Nov. 7-8) from 9 am to 4 pm. Geoff added that Tom Picot, the new Chamber of Commerce president, came to a Pathways Committee meeting and was surprised to learn about the Guide to Camden Parks, which he didn't know existed. He wants to feature outdoor activities in the area; a project that Karen Brace and several other people will be working on. Geoff noted that the Washington Street sidewalk to Shirrtail Park is hung up on MDOT requirements about easements, etc., but the project is flagged as "red" to proceed.

**Tannery Work Group:** Tom Resek and Eleanor Masin-Peters of the Friends of River Park gave a presentation that reviewed the history behind the current proposal to move the Camden Farms Market to the town-owned Tannery site, the advantages of having it there, and the possibility of including a playground, sculpture park, tennis and basketball courts, flower gardens, pumpkin patch or other ideas on the site. The Committee was receptive to the Farmers Market concept, but raised questions about the cost for an ADA-certified playground (\$75,000 and up), liability issues, and maintenance costs. Casey suggested that the area retain some of its natural elements and not be overbuilt. Ray noted that the Committee will become more involved with the site if it is turned into a park or playground.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Snow Bowl Budget:** Beth reported that we have already sold \$195,000 in season passes, which is up from \$167,000 at the same time last year. In addition, the Snow Bowl took in \$6,800 in chairlift rides in October, well above the \$5,000 budgeted. Expenses for the winter season are just starting to trickle in.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

**New POS:** Beth is still building the site, but it should be fully ready in November or early December.

**Website:** The new website has a few issues, but looks great. Suggestions included adding an info line and names of contact persons.

**Property Tour:** A third and final property tour will take place on Monday, Nov. 9. Participants should meet at the Public Service parking lot on Washington Street at 8:45. We will visit four sites: Maiden Cliff, the Rte. 52 Boat Ramp, Hodson Park, and the unnamed launch area behind a pump station along the Megunticook River.

**Logo:** A final draft of the new logos is being prepared.

*The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.*

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, Dec. 2

*Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen*