

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2013

5:15 pm, Opera House Tucker Room

Present: Ray Andresen (chair), Pete Conover, Jim Heard (Select Board Liaison), Casey Leonard, Ed Libby, Geoff Scott (Pathways Committee), Beth Ward. Excused: Pete Brown, David Olivas, Brian Robinson.

Ray Andresen opened the meeting at 5:20 pm.

Minutes: Ed Libby moved to accept the January 9, 2013 minutes as presented, Pete Conover seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Toboggan Championships: Beth Ward reported that this year's event, which was limited to one day of racing on Sunday due to the three-foot snowstorm and blizzard on Saturday, Feb. 9, resulted in a net profit of approximately \$57,000, down from \$61,000 the year before primarily due to lower parking receipts and souvenir sales. Income was not adversely affected because all fees for competitors, vendors, and sponsors are non-refundable. About one-third of the competitors did not show up, but five of the six vendors were there. People were generally pleased that we able to hold the event, albeit for one day.

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: Beth reported that the Redevelopment Committee has raised \$3.7 million so far toward its goal of \$4.5 million and is still looking at a proposed Town Vote in November on the additional \$2 million bond for the project. She also noted that a special event to launch the general public fund-raising effort is being planned for Saturday, March 16.

Pathways Committee: Geoff Scott reported that Lennie Gronros is the new vice chairman of the Pathways Committee. He also reported that the Maine Conservation Corps is scheduled to work on the Tannery Riverwalk in September, that a volunteer workday at the site will be arranged, and that discussions will begin soon on the conceptual plan for the Shirttail to Harbor pathway.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Snow Bowl: Beth reported that ski lessons have been sold out, that daily ticket sales are going up and should continue to improve with the upcoming February vacation week, and that the Snow Bowl is catching up to its budget.

OLD BUSINESS

Park-Rec Director: Ray reported that Pat Finnigan is planning to post the job description for a new Director in local, state, and regional media sometime this month.

NEW BUSINESS

Sports Field: Beth reported that Fitzy (Facilities Manager William Fitzcharles) thinks we should not allow any sports activities on the football/lacrosse field this spring because it needs time to "heal" from last fall's abuse. This will affect the Five-Town Football, Ultimate Frisbee, Little League Girls Softball, and YMCA Lacrosse programs, among others. Beth will inform the affected groups concerning the possible field closure and report back to the Committee at its next meeting.

Nordic Skiing: Pete Conover raised the question about frequency of usage of our new Nordic Trail at the Snow Bowl. Beth estimated that there are 10-25 skiers using the trail each day, but there's no way to accurately count users.

Ed Libby moved to adjourn, Pete Conover seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0 at 6:25 p.m.

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

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen