

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

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

Ray opened the meeting at 5:20 pm.

Minutes: David moved to accept the January 7 minutes, Maureen seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: Landon reported that the new triple chair became operational on Thursday, Jan. 29 and that the official ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Saturday, Jan. 31. There were a few operator errors with the new lift, and there is a list of 26 technical fixes to be done. The new lift can handle up to 1,600 riders per hour.

Due to the cost overruns and delayed opening, the Redevelopment schedule has changed. Installation of the double-chair lift has been postponed until this summer, and construction of the new lodge will not begin this year since an additional \$1 million or more needs to be raised to make up for the cost overruns. However, work on the parking lot and stormwater management will take place this summer.

National Toboggan Championships: Landon said that registrations are full for this weekend's 25th Toboggan Championships. Everything seems to be in order and ready to go.

Pathways: Geoff reported that Pathways Committee is submitting a grant application for People for Bikes seeking funding for engineering/design/permitting of another section of the Riverwalk, from Knowlton Street along the river to the Middle School property line. He added that the Pathways Committee is going to be updating its master plan for Rockport and Camden and as a result the 2015 Committee priorities.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Snow Bowl Operations: Landon reported that \$22,700 will be refunded to season pass holders who asked for a refund. That represents about 10% of passes sold. Tomorrow is the last day for people to request refunds.

Landon reviewed reasons behind several cost overruns in the budget, including the summer rec program (more signups than expected), personnel expenses (additional part-time help for the Redevelopment project), cemeteries (extensive tree damage), and marketing (hiring of a part-timer, Suzanne Weiss, to handle press releases, magazine ads, radio ads, etc.).

Landon added that Sunday, February 1, may have been one of the Snow Bowl's best days ever, with more than \$7,400 in day tickets sold and both the parking lot and ball field filled with cars.

OLD BUSINESS

Employee Recognition: The work of Committee members in providing snacks and beverages to the crew working on getting the Snow Bowl ready for the season was a big hit and appreciated by all. The Committee also discussed the possibility of getting some recognition photos of the crew placed in local publications and round the Snow Bowl Lodge.

NEW BUSINESS

Forest Management: The Committee discussed the concerns brought before the Planning Board by the Conservation Commission regarding plans to cut more trees at the Snow Bowl and Ragged Mountain. Landon explained that we need to cut some trees near the chairlift for safety reasons and that some additional culling of less healthy trees on the property should also be done this year, per the existing forest management plan. Ray will forward copies of that plan to the Park-Rec Committee. Landon said he will get a peer review of that plan and meet with the Conservation Commission to go over their concerns. He also agreed to come before the Park-Rec Committee to discuss any future tree-cutting plans beyond general maintenance.

Upcoming Events: The Toboggan Championships take place February 6-7-8. There will be an appreciation party and barbecue for season pass holders and Snow Bowl employees on Feb. 28. The Board of Selectmen is invited, as are members of the Park-Rec Committee.

Next Meeting: March 4, 2015 at 5:15 p.m. in the Washington Street Conference Room.

Brian moved that the meeting be adjourned, David seconded the motion, and it was approved 4-0 at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen