

## Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2014

5:15 pm, Camden Snow Bowl Lodge

**Present:** Ray Andresen (chair), Pete Brown, Landon Fake, Casey Heard, Jim Heard, Brian Robinson, Geoff Scott, Beth Ward.

Excused: Ed Libby, David Olivas.

*Ray Andresen opened the meeting at 5:14 pm.*

**Minutes:** Pete Brown moved that the January 8 minutes be approved with the following corrections: under Ragged Mountain Redevelopment, the name "Will Gorsky" should be changed to "Will Gartley of Gartley and Dorsky," and under Revenues, the words "from 2012" should be deleted. Casey Heard seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Ragged Mountain Redevelopment:** Landon Fake used new Snow Bowl maps to show the wooded areas to be cut, how the 22-Tacks Trail will be rerouted, and where the 2-chair, 3-chair and handle-tow lifts will be positioned. He noted that Sunday, March 16 will be the last day of skiing for the season and that redevelopment work on the slope will commence on Monday, March 17, and a lot of heavy equipment (trucks, cranes, storage units) will be occupying space in the parking lot over the next few months. The first step will be cutting approximately 15 acres of trees, following a forest management plan developed by Mitch Kuhn. The loggers plan to skid trees down the slopes while they are frozen and may suspend operations during the spring thaw to avoid excess damage to the terrain. The amount of good trees to be cut may produce a net gain for the Snow Bowl from this logging operation. The logging schedule will be posted on the Snow Bowl website to help everyone plan their visits to Ragged Mountain. George Kruger, the lift installer, is scheduled to begin work on March 23. The T-bars will be dismantled first and put up for sale.

**National Toboggan Championships:** Beth Ward reported that we had the largest attendance ever for the event, with an estimated three-day total of 9,000 people. Net income was about \$40,000, but would have been higher except for some greater-than-expected expenses. The cost of bus service from downtown to the Snow Bowl went from \$1,000 to \$4,000 because, at the last minute, we couldn't get enough school bus drivers for the event and had to hire four buses from Luce Transportation. The cost of printing our own four-color glossy program was \$8,000, compared with the free programs that were distributed by local printers in past years. This cost was offset somewhat by advertising we sold for the program. Beth also noted that the shed donated by Shed City for use at the downtown bus stop worked well but could have been smaller.

**Pathways:** Geoff Scott reported on the recent meeting of the Rockport and Camden Select Boards and other groups that discussed plans for the Route 1 "gateway" between the towns, the new sidewalk planned for the corridor between Leonard's and Quarry Hill, and the potential redesign of the Route 1 intersection with John Street, Camden Street and Conway Road. Funding for the sidewalk and Route 1 redesign probably won't be available until the 2015/16 budget cycle.

**Public Landing/Riverwalk:** Ray Andresen reported that he, Landon and Geoff Scott met with Development Director Brian Hodges to discuss oversight of the Camden Riverwalk development. It was suggested that Rick Seible of the Public Works Department should be included in any planning discussions since that department will probably be called upon for site work. It was also suggested that the Town of Camden begin setting aside funds in its annual budget for work on the Riverwalk. Geoff noted that the next big segment, after the Seabright Dam to Mt. Battie Street section is completed, should be the area behind the Camden/Rockport Middle School since that facility is expected to be totally redesigned in the near future. Geoff said he has met with School Superintendent Elaine Nutter and she is supportive of the Riverwalk concept,

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Snow Bowl Operations:** Beth reported that the Snow Bowl is currently \$31,000 in the black, but that will be reduced somewhat between now and the end of the budget cycle. Pete Brown mentioned how customer-friendly everyone, including volunteers, is at the Snow Bowl and he volunteered to write a letter thanking them for helping to make the Snow Bowl a success. Beth added that there will be an employee appreciation dinner for volunteers and employees after the March 16 shutdown.

**Proposed Budget:** There are no major changes being proposed for the 2014/15 budget other than a capital request for a new truck and an extra part-time staff member to help with the redevelopment.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Seniors Program:** Will be discussed at the April meeting.

**Comprehensive Plan:** Ray reminded everyone that the Committee is expected to review and revise Chapter 13: Recreation and Open Space and return comments and suggestions to the Comprehensive Plan Committee before the end of next week. Geoff suggested that he will send a Google.doc version of the document to everyone so they can edit it on on-line and see what everybody else is changing in real time. Ray will combine all edits and suggestions into a final revised version for the Comp Plan Committee.

**Cardboard Box Races:** Casey Heard reported that the second annual Cardboard Box Races recently held at the Snow Bowl were a fantastic success. There were 88 teams registered, although some didn't show up, and cars were parked all the way out to Barnestown Road. Beth noted that there are already discussions about expanding this event next year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Upcoming Events:** The T-bar will be officially "retired" on Sunday, March 16.

*Pete moved the meeting be adjourned, Casey seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0 at 6:15 p.m.*

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 9 at 5:15 pm in the WSCR.

*Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen*