

## Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2013

5:15 pm, Washington Street Conference Room

**Present:** Ray Andresen (chair), Jim Heard (Select Board Liaison), Casey Leonard, Ed Libby, Beth Ward.

**Excused:** Pete Brown, Pete Conover, David Olivas, Brian Robinson. **Guests:** John Anders, Carl Chadwick, Kenny Johndro.

*Ray Andresen opened the meeting at 5:15 pm.*

**Minutes:** Ed Libby moved to accept the February 13, 2013 minutes as presented, Casey Leonard seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Sports Field Closure:** Beth Ward reported that the playing field at the Snow Bowl will be closed this spring for maintenance, repair and “rest” after being torn up last fall. The estimated cost from SportsField Associates for getting the football field back into shape is \$4,800, with another \$2,000 needed to prepare the softball infield area. Repairs should begin in April, but there is no definite timetable for reopening the sports field. The YMCA (lacrosse league), Five-Town Football, summer softball league, and other users have been notified that the sports field will be closed indefinitely and have been advised to prepare a backup plan. Carl Chadwick and Kenny Johndro from Five-Town Football agreed that repairs are needed and that the field needs a “healing” period, but they suggested that the Parks and Recreation Department look into an alternative to the “top dressing” mix of sand and fertilizer proposed by SportsField Associates. They recommended a “rollout, aerate and seeding” program that would probably be less expensive and could have the playing field ready to be used faster than the “top dressing” method. The Committee decided that further discussion of the alternatives was needed, and that an on-site inspection of the area with SportsField and interested parties would be helpful once the snow melted away.

**Mountain Biking Trails Group:** John Anders discussed the nonprofit business plan of the Camden Area Trails Task Force that will be presented to the Select Board next week. He noted that the local area already has about 100 miles of mountain biking trails, and that the goal of his group would be to create, develop and maintain a “destination” trails network that could attract riders from near and afar — much like Kingdom Trails in Vermont. After much discussion about the potential costs and benefits to the Snow Bowl, including the possibility of charging membership fees or day passes to use the biking trails there, the Committee endorsed the idea of creating a nonprofit Trails Association.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**National Toboggan Championships:** Beth reported that the net profit from this year’s event will be down about \$8,000 from last year, which is very good considering that the 2013 event was reduced to one day of racing because of the Feb. 9 blizzard.

**Ragged Mountain Redevelopment:** A cardboard box race is planned for this coming Saturday as part of the fund-raising effort, which has reached the \$3.8 million level and is now being expanded for the final push to the \$4.5 million goal.

**Pathways Committee:** John (who’s also on the Pathway Committee) reported that T.Y. Lin has been awarded the contract to develop a design concept for a Shirttail-to-Harbor Riverwalk and Public Landing improvements. Ray Andresen and Ed Libby will serve on the community working group for this project.

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Proposed Budget:** Beth reported that there are no major changes in the budget being presented to the Budget Committee next week.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Park-Rec Director:** Ray reported that no job opening for a new Director has been posted yet.

**Summer Rec Fees:** Beth reported that the fees for the full six-week program were set at \$295 for Camden residents and \$595 for non-residents, with a \$100 single-week fee for both residents and non-residents.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Obstacle Race:** Beth reported that Reade Brower of the Courier-Gazette and Free Press publications is exploring the possibility of conducting a fund-raising road race at the Snow Bowl to benefit an orphanage in Malawi. This would be different from the 3-mile race co-sponsored by Camden First Aid and the Park-Rec Department in September.

*Ed Libby moved to adjourn, Casey Leonard seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0 at 6:55 p.m.*

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

*Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen*