

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2016
Tucker Room

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

Ray opened the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Minutes: Maureen moved to accept the Jan. 6 minutes, Emily seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: Landon reported that Phase II is done and that Phase III (the lodge) is waiting for the Ragged Mountain Foundation to raise the necessary funds. Maureen reported that the Foundation is exploring possibilities for grants, new donors, selling tile nameplates, etc.

National Toboggan Championships: Beth reported that this year's shortened one-day event brought in about \$41,000 in net income (\$80,000 total revenues minus \$39,000 in expenses). Net income was down about \$19,000 from the previous year, mainly due to having having 100 fewer teams register for the event and receiving \$8,000 less in parking fees. These numbers are not final.

Pathways: No report.

Tannery Work Group: Ray reported that representatives from Ransom Engineering and the state DEP reviewed the results of recent testing on the Tannery site that showed no major issues. There has been no detectable seepage from the VRAP site into the Megunticook River and the only "surprises" were slightly elevated levels of arsenic and benzopyrene, which are not unusual for sites in Maine or places near roadways. It was suggested that the entire non-VRAP zone that is not paved be covered with fill and/or other materials before putting it to a new use, but neither the DEP nor Ransom saw any problem in reusing the site for a farmers' market, playground, community building, or other function being considered by the Tannery Work Group.

Outdoors Mapping Group: Landon and Ray reported that there are two mapping projects underway: one will be a new, expanded version of the Camden Parks Guide that will include some properties in Rockport; the other is an electronic version that will include more information about outdoor recreational opportunities over a wider geographic area. We hope to print the new Outdoor Guide before this summer's tourist season.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Park-Rec Budget: Landon and Beth are finishing up the 2016/17 proposed budget, which will include a request for \$10,000 to prepare a preliminary plan for improvements to Shirttail Point Park. There are actually two budgets: one holds spending to the previous year's total, the other cuts spending somewhat.

Snow Bowl Budget: Beth reported that the Snow Bowl budget currently shows a loss of \$205,000 for the year, but that deficit will grow because there are at least an estimated \$60,000 in outstanding expenses and only \$20,000 in additional receivables. This follows a loss of \$80,000 last year. Landon and Beth reported that the Snow Bowl had only 42 skier days this past season, compared with 55 last season and with an average of 60-62 in previous years. They added that the entire mountain was open for skiing only 3 days during the entire 2015/16 season.

OLD BUSINESS

New POS and Website: Beth reported that the new point-of-sale system and website are still "works in progress." She is updating the website with current info, using the POS to generate end-of-season reports, and trying to set up a way to sell things online,

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NEW BUSINESS

Septic System: Landon reported that the pump for the new septic system at the Snow Bowl failed the day after its one-year warranty was up. Amid a lot of finger-pointing among contractors, subcontractors and engineers, the problem was fixed. Landon is looking into the possibility of reimbursement for our expenses.

Solar Installations: Brian mentioned that a group is looking at town-owned properties for siting a 1-acre solar array installation, which precipitated a discussion about energy-efficiency plans for the new lodge.

Upcoming Events: The annual Cardboard Box Derby will be held on Sunday, March 6. This coming weekend will also be the final weekend for skiing this year.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 6

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen