

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2013

5:15 pm, Washington Street Conference Room

Present: Ray Andresen (chair), Pete Conover, Casey Leonard, David Olivas, Brian Robinson Beth Ward.

Excused: Jim Heard (Select Board Liaison), Pete Brown, Ed Libby. **Guests:** William (Fitzy) Fitzcharles.

Ray Andresen opened the meeting at 5:17 pm.

Minutes: Pete Conover moved to accept the March 13, 2013 minutes as presented, Brian Robinson seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Toboggan Championships: Beth Ward reported that there is a possibility of beginning some competitive runs on Friday night. Additional lighting would be needed but could be used for other events. There also is a possibility of having fireworks at the Snow Bowl during the Championship weekend.

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: Casey Leonard noted that the cardboard box race was a "blast" and hopes it becomes an annual affair. The race was part of the Redevelopment fundraising effort. Fitzy reviewed details about the recent controversy surrounding the used chair lift from Shawnee Peak that was the subject of a special meeting of the Select Board. He noted that replacement parts will be available from several sources and easier to get than parts for the current lift, that installation costs include moving and reinstalling the current chair lift, and that Waterville Valley wants to buy our big T-bar lift when it's replaced. He also noted that purchase and installation of a new lift would have doubled the cost. As for the expected life of a used lift, he said the current main lift at the Snow Bowl is 47 years old. With plans for a November vote on the \$2 million bond issue, it was suggested we ask Rick Knowlton or Bob Gordon to attend our next meeting.

Pathways Committee: No report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Proposed Budget: Beth reported that the Department is \$17,000 in the red as of April 1, but with \$40,000 in receivables, might break even for the year. She added that the Snow Bowl had a great February and early March after a tough January and December due to low snow totals. She also noted that her proposed budget for 2013/14 was approved by the Budget Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Sports Field: Fitzy and Beth reported that repairs need to begin in April and that, depending on the weather, the field could be available for football this fall. Estimated cost for the repairs is \$4,873. Casey raised the issue of charging user fees to help pay for maintaining the field. User fees could be based on participant hours on the field, or some other formula. It was noted that Portland rents its fields for \$200,000 per year. Brian moved that the Committee support the Parks and Recreation Department's decision to hire SFI (SportsField) to repair the field, Casey seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0. Casey and Beth will work on a letter to user groups seeking contributions to help defray repair costs.

Mountain Biking Trails Group: Beth reported that the Select Board supported the efforts by John Anders and the Camden Area Trails Task Force to create a nonprofit Trails Association to plan, develop, and maintain biking trails in Camden and surrounding towns.

Park-Rec Director: Ray reported that the job opening for a new Director has just been posted and distributed copies to the Committee.

Park-Rec Site Review: Delayed until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Comprehensive Plan: Ray distributed copies of Chapter 15, Page 11 (Ragged Mountain Recreation Area), which will need to be discussed and revised at the next meeting.

ACE: Beth reported that Camden is now an active participant in ACE (Active Community Environment). The goal is to create an active environment to fight obesity by “connecting” walking lanes, biking lanes, and other resources for all groups: youth, parents and seniors.

Upcoming Events: The Megunticook Canoe Race will be held on June 30. Ray reminded the Committee that the second public meeting on the design study for the Riverwalk and Public Landing will be held on Monday, April 22 at 6 p.m.

David Olivas moved to adjourn, Pete Conover seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0 at 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at 5:15pm in the WSCR.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen