

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2014

5:15 pm, Snow Bowl

Present: Ray Andresen (chair), Pete Brown, Landon Fake, Emily McDevitt, Brian Robinson, Beth Ward.

Excused: Casey Heard, David Olivas. Absent: Jim Heard, Ed Libby, Geoff Scott.

Ray opened the meeting at 5:17 pm.

Minutes: Pete moved the March 12 minutes be approved, Emily seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: Landon said that the redevelopment work is relatively on schedule. He noted that the logging process restarted on May 13, that the rope from Tower 6 is dismantled and down, that a lighting engineer will be here tonight (May 14) to test the LED and magnetic induction lighting options, and that the cable will be cut tomorrow so towers can begin coming down. Beth is putting a redevelopment update status in the newsletter every two weeks.

National Toboggan Championships: Landon talked to Sandy Cox of West Bay Rotary regarding the job description and reimbursement for Rotary's help with toboggan championship parking.

Pathways: Pete discussed the issue of telephone poles and mailboxes blocking the right of way on the High Street sidewalks with Town Manager Pat Finnigan and Code Enforcement Officer Steve Wilson. They will see if the utility company can move the poles as it did in Rockport.

Public Landing/Riverwalk: The Committee discussed having a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Tannery section sometime this summer. Someone will draft a letter to the Maine Conservation Corps thanking them for their work on their Tannery walk and inviting them to the ceremony. Pete mentioned that a process called "tactical urbanism" might be used to test different changes at the Public Landing and downtown areas.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Snow Bowl Operations: Beth reported the Snow Bowl is still in the black for the year and should remain that way at year-end on June 30. Landon has proposed a slight price increase in day tickets, including a \$10 processing fee for Camden seniors in lieu of charging them for day passes. Pete moved that we adopt the new pricing scheme, Emily seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0. After much discussion about charging Nordic skiers and others who use the cross-country trails, it was decided to install a donation box near the trail entry point with a sign encouraging donations for trail upkeep, etc. Landon also mentioned that the ski area will be open 6 days a week instead of 5 this winter (closed Mondays) and that the hours of operation will be 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. instead of 8 p.m.

Other Operations: Beth is approaching the Downtown Business Group to see if they will cover some or all of the costs for the summer concert series in the Amphitheatre. Six concerts are planned for noontime on Wednesdays this summer. The Summer Park-Rec Program will be run by Pen-Bay YMCA again this year. Beth also mentioned that we may need to purchase a new awning for the deck at the Snow Bowl Lodge.

OLD BUSINESS

Sports Fields: Beth distributed a proposed fee schedule for organized leagues using the sports field based on \$1 per day per participant to help pay for maintaining and improving the field. Based on the average number of participants and usage days in 2013, this new fee schedule would have raised a total of \$7,340 last year (\$4,320 from football, \$1,400 from lacrosse, \$340 from adult Frisbee, and \$1,280 from softball). The estimated annual field-related expense is \$8,000. Pete moved that we adopt the new fee schedule and it be implemented as of July 1, 2014, Emily seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0. Landon will present the new fee schedule to the Select Board in June. Beth mentioned that the ideal number of usage hours for a sports field like the one at the Snow Bowl is 120, which is about half of what it usually gets. She also added that lacrosse started its season at the end of April and that football will begin using the field at the end of August.

Seniors Program: Beth met with Ed and they decided that while there is a need for a seniors program, we should wait until next year when a new program coordinator might be on board.

NEW BUSINESS

Rock Climbing: Pete suggested that we look at promoting rock climbing as another recreational opportunity in Camden. After some discussion, Landon agreed to contact Town Attorney Bill Kelly to see if there are any liability issues with promoting the sport.

Pete moved to adjourn, Brian seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

Redevelopment Tour: Following the meeting, Landon led the Committee on a walking tour of the lower ski area and parking lot, pointing out the areas where trees have been removed, buildings torn down, equipment dismantled, and logs and equipment stored for removal or installation.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen