

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2014

5:15 pm, WSCR

Present: Ray Andresen (chair), Pete Brown, Emily McDevitt, Brian Robinson, Geoff Scott, Beth Ward.
Guest: John Scholz. Excused: Landon Fake, Casey Heard, Jim Heard, David Olivas.

Ray opened the meeting at 5:32 pm.

Minutes: Brian Robinson moved that the May 14 minutes be approved, Emily McDevitt seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: John Scholz, representing the Hosmer Pond Association, reported on the siltation problem at Hosmer Pond due to erosion during logging operations at the Snow Bowl. He said the problem occurred after a large rainstorm last week, which washed sediment that had built up in the parking lot into the pond, turning it brown. He also said that the cause seems to be that trees were dragged down the mountain, branches and all, and dumped in the parking lot with root balls, mud, etc., and that the loggers did not have silt barriers erected at the edge of the parking lot to prevent the silt from getting into Hosmer Brook and the pond. John added that a major concern is that there is no construction manager, or “clerk of the works,” on site for this part of the redevelopment project, but there will be one hired to oversee the construction phase for the new lodge. After further discussion, it was decided that the Parks and Recreation Committee recommend that the Town hire a project manager ASAP to oversee the redevelopment work and to coordinate all contractors to help prevent any continuing or future problems.

Ray Andresen distributed copies of a letter that Landon Fake, who was unable to attend the Committee meeting, will be sending to Hosmer Pond Association members and other neighbors that details the issue, its causes, and preventative measures being taken, and apologizes for the problems caused by the logging operation. Landon will be at the next Select Board meeting to update everyone on the situation.

Beth Ward reported that the logging operation should be completed in the next two weeks and that the trail crew should start “moving earth” in July. All of the lifts have been removed from the slope, some of the towers are down, and many of the cement footings will be tipped and buried. She added that the Town is in the process of interviewing up to 19 construction managers for the rest of the redevelopment project.

National Toboggan Championships: No report.

Pathways: Geoff Scott reported that the slope of the berm next to the northern end of the path at the old Tannery site needs to be improved. He also reported that the Pathways Committee intends to file for a grant from the National Park Service for a person to oversee trail development and that the grant application for the Seabright section of the Camden Riverwalk will be resubmitted. In addition, implementation of the grant for creating a sidewalk along Route 1 to the bus stop at Maritime Energy has been held up pending a decision on redesigning the John Street/Conway Road/Camden Street interchange.

Public Landing/Riverwalk: Pete Brown reported that the next “tactical urbanism” project may involve looking at ways to make the alley entrance from Main Street to the Public Landing more user-friendly.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Snow Bowl Operations: Beth reported that the Snow Bowl budget is still \$5,000 in the black with less than two weeks before year-end closing. Next year’s Snow Bowl budget will be presented to the Select Board for approval on June 24. That proposed budget will include an estimated 15% increase in revenue offset by increased costs for snowmaking, grooming, fuel, a temporary building, and personnel.

OLD BUSINESS

Sports Fields: Beth reported that the Select Board decided against imposing any usage fees on the various sports leagues and groups that use the athletic fields.

Tennis Courts: Responding to reports that the tennis courts at the Snow Bowl are in bad condition, Beth noted that they need to be resurfaced (they were last resurfaced five years ago) and that the Department has already received quotes for new fencing. Apparently, there still are some funds available in a trust that had been set up for maintenance of the courts.

Rock Climbing: Nothing further on discussions with attorney Bill Kelly re liability issues.

Summer Camp: Beth reported that the available slots are close to full. It was suggested that the camp start one week earlier to coincide more closely with the end of the school year.

NEW BUSINESS

Wednesdays in the Park: Beth was able to secure \$600 in funding from the Downtown Business Group to underwrite half of the cost for six musical events in the Amphitheatre this summer, two of which will be evening shows..

Resignations: Pete Brown announced that he will be dropping off the Committee, leaving two vacancies to be filled for the coming year. Ed Libby had previously announced that he was resigning from the Committee.

Upcoming Events: The annual Lake Race on Megunticook will take place on Sunday, June 29, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Pete moved to adjourn, Brian seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen