

**Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**July 1, 2015**  
**Washington Street Conference Room**

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

*Ray opened the meeting at 5:28 pm.*

**Minutes:** Brian moved to accept the June 3 minutes, Jessie seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Ragged Mountain Redevelopment:** Beth reported that Ledgewood, Ferriuolo, Landon and Fitzie are meeting regularly regarding work on the parking lot and other areas. Landon met with the DEP representative and they decided not to start any project involving the moving of earth if it's going to rain. Tom Beauregard has been pulled off lift work to focus on erosion control measures, especially with the new access road that has suffered some erosion. This change was done in response to criticism from Lee Schneller. The parking lot could be completed by mid-August. Pancake breakfasts and chairlift rides are still planned for October.

**National Toboggan Championships:** Beth reported that the effort to sign up potential Toboggan volunteers on voting day was a big success, resulting in 2 full pages of interested citizens. A barbecue for current and potential volunteers is scheduled for next Friday, July 10.

**Pathways:** Geoff reported that Pathways met with Maine Coast Heritage Trust to see how the two organizations can collaborate on efforts in Camden and Rockport. The Trust is a potential source for grants. He added that the Pathways Committee will probably have a draft Riverwalk concept by the next Park-Rec Committee meeting. He is working on a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the year-old Tannery Riverwalk. Pathways is also working with Coastal Mountains Land Trust on plans for the Seabright Extension of the Riverwalk. There is a timing issue for getting an easement for cutting a path up the slope and through CMLT property; it needs to be done this fall. There also is an issue with parking; the Town may need to construct a parking area since the CMLT lot will not be available for users of the Riverwalk .

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Snow Bowl Budget:** Beth reported that the Snow Bowl finished the year \$82,633 in the red. There will be some bookkeeping changes in the future to clarify and track cemetery expenses, energy bills (sometimes 12 or more per month), and toboggan championship expenses and income. She also noted that the Select Board did not approve the Snow Bowl budget at its most recent meeting; instead it will tour the Snow Bowl on July 7 to better understand some of the equipment requests, including a new point-of-service (POS) system, before taking up the budget again. A new POS system, which could cost \$30,000 or more, would speed up the accounting process and improve marketing information on customers and potential customers.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Property Tour:** The Committee likes the idea of starting the Tour at 7:00 a.m. on an upcoming Wednesday. Ray will notify everybody of the best date later this month.

**Shirrtail Point:** Beth reported that an anonymous donor would like to give money for handicapped water access and that a handicap kayak ramp at Shirrtail might be the most appropriate idea and location.

**Sports Fields:** Beth reported that the lacrosse season has ended; that a one-week window is needed for seeding the field; that the softball league donated \$300 to help pay for new bases and grooming of the softball, field; and that Five-Town Football has arranged for a meter on the scoreboard so that power will not have to come from the neighbor's barn.

**User Fees:** Since it costs at least \$5,000 a year to maintain the Sports Fields, the Committee would like to take another look at a proposed user fee. One possibility would be a per-player charge; another would be a group deposit that would be refunded if there is no expensive damage to the fields.

**Tennis Courts:** The idea of converting the outdoor tennis courts for use as pickleball courts was suggested.

**Summer Rec:** Beth said the program starts this coming Monday and that all available slots are filled.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Tannery Work Group:** Ray reported that the Group has met twice, with a lot of the discussion centering on the possibility of using it for a farmers' market and park. He also noted that one local resident requested that mowing of the Tannery site be put off until the wildflowers have finished blooming.

**Upcoming Events:** Beth noted that Brimstone Consulting will be leading a strategic planning session involving the Snow Bowl Staff to determine goals and strategies for the next three years .

*The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.*

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 29.

*Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen*