

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2013

5:15 pm, Washington Street Conference Room

Present: Ray Andresen (chair), Pete Brown, Casey Heard, Jim Heard, Ed Libby, David Olivas, Beth Ward.
Excused: Pete Conover, Brian Robinson, Geoff Scott. **Guests:** Carl Chadwick and Ken Jonro (Five-Town Football).

Ray Andresen opened the meeting at 5:15 pm.

Minutes: Pete Brown moved that the June 19 minutes be approved, Ed Libby seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: Beth Ward reported that there is a possible \$200,000 grant for the Ragged Mountain Redevelopment project through the Midcoast Economic Development Association, which covers the area from Brunswick to Searsport.

National Toboggan Championships: Beth reported that the Toboggan Committee needs more volunteers to help plan and run the event. Meetings are generally held once a month, but more frequently in January and February.

Pathways: Pete Brown mentioned that the “pathway” on High Street is obstructed by one or more mailboxes that have been placed too close to the sidewalk, or even in the sidewalk, making it difficult to get by.

Public Landing/Riverwalk: Ray reported that the work group will have a debriefing with the consultants later this month to review several issues that were raised at the open meeting held in June.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Snow Bowl Budget: Beth reported that the Select Board approved a conservative 2013/14 budget for the Snow Bowl. She also distributed a stat sheet showing that skier days (as measured by tickets issued plus 15 days per season pass holder) totaled 30,592 last year. That was up almost 4,000 from the previous year and represents the second best year on record, despite having only 57.8 inches of natural snow (down from 104.5 inches two years ago).

OLD BUSINESS

Park-Rec Director: Ray reported that Town Manager Pat Finnigan said applicant interviews will begin in August and hopes to have them completed by early September..

Sports Field: Carl Chadwick and Ken Jonro from Five Town Football expressed their concerns about the long-term maintenance and management of the sports field at the Snow Bowl. They distributed pictures of barren spots in the sports field and questioned whether it will be ready for the football season that begins in August. Beth noted that the field should be ready — it had been top-dressed again just two weeks ago and John Novak (from the high school) was coming over next week to fertilize it again. Among the issues affecting the sports field are the Town’s pesticide-free organics policy, the increased number of “feet on the field,” the lack of a permanent watering system, an underfunded and static maintenance budget, and the lack of other suitable playing fields in Camden and surrounding communities.

Park-Rec Tour: The site tour on Wednesday, July 17, will begin with a visit to Curtis Island and we will try to see as many properties as possible during the day.

Park-Rec Signs: Beth reported that new signs have been installed at the Bay Road Overlook, the Mount Battie Trail Entrance on Megunticook Street, and the Maiden Cliff Trail Entrance on Route 52. Some additional changes to these signs are needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Water Reports: The Committee discussed recent reports of unhealthy conditions at Laite Beach, Barrett's Cove and Hosmer Pond. Ray will contact Steve Wilson (Code Enforcement Officer) and the Harbor Committee to see what actions are possible and appropriate.

Tree Donation: Beth reported that Cassella's Waste Management has donated eight trees for planting at the Public Safety Parking Lot and at Laite Beach.

Other Issues: Pete Brown suggested that the Department look into smoothing out the parking lot at the Snow Bowl and consider using recycled materials for picnic tables in the future. He also suggested that a representative from ACE (Active Community Environment) be invited to one of our future meetings to discuss recreational issues and opportunities facing our community.

Upcoming Events: The circus returns to the Snow Bowl for a two-day run on July 13th and 14th.

David Olivas moved to adjourn, Ed seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0 at 6:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at 5:15pm in the WSCR.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen