

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
July 29, 2015
Washington Street Conference Room

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

Ray opened the meeting at 5:32 pm.

Minutes: Brian moved to accept the July 1 minutes as amended, Emily seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: Landon reported that the new parking lot featuring a mix of crushed stone and reclaim will be finished in mid-August; that all of the pieces of the double-chair lift are up on the hill and awaiting the contractor to return from vacation; that a crew of five has been working on erosion control and cleaning up downfall; and that the double-chair should be completely installed by the end of September. Emily raised questions about the lack of good signage and directions for some of the trails, including the Kuhler Trail. The Committee suggested that the triple kiosk near the boat ramp should be improved and updated, which will need to be coordinated with Coastal Mountains Land Trust. Landon and Beth will look into creating new trail maps and make them available to visitors. Maureen reported that the Redevelopment Committee raised more than \$300,000 for the redevelopment project during a fundraiser at the Waterfront.

National Toboggan Championships: Beth reported that a barbecue for current and potential volunteers was rescheduled from July 10 to Thursday, August 27. Ray mentioned that the end sections of the toboggan chute are submerged in Hosmer Pond and need to be removed.

Pathways: Geoff reported that the Pathways Committee met with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, which is not a source for grants. However, the Trust is in the process of surveying communities in the area to see what is needed for walkers, buyers, etc. and is building a multiuse trail in Rockport from Erickson Field to the Beech Hill Preserve. Geoff also noted that there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Tannery Trail on Sept. 12, and that Chellie Pingree, Joan Welsh, and Paul LePage have been invited to the event. Geoff will email the Pathways Committee's guiding principles to the Park-Rec Committee for approval at the next meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Snow Bowl Budget: Beth reported that the Snow Bowl Budget that was passed two weeks ago included a new point-of-sale (POS) system that should be up-and-running by mid-September. The system cost \$30,000 with a \$10,000 annual fee.

OLD BUSINESS

Tannery Work Group: Ray reported that the Group is looking at a variety of possible uses for the property in addition to the idea of moving the Farmers Market there. Those supporting the Farmers Market would like to have a five-year lease, providing some rental income to the Town, and have incorporated a playground and other park-like amenities in their plans.

Property Tour: We will meet at 8:00 am on Wednesday, August 12 to tour some of the Park-Rec properties, starting with the Tannery Riverwalk, Seabright Park, and Shirrtail Point Park.

Summer Rec: Beth reported that the program is finishing up week 4 and has been pretty full all the time.

Shirrtail Point: Nothing new has happened with the sidewalk extension on Washington Street since the project funding from the state has been pushed back to next year.

Sports Fields: Ray noted that there are a few bare spots on the football field, but it looks to be in good shape for the coming season.

User Fees: The Committee decided to table this item for now and remove it from the agenda until there's an issue.

Tennis Courts: Landon suggested that this issue should be elevated to the Community Development Office to see where the courts should be located if we were to rebuild them. Right now they are getting very little use except for kids on bikes and people looking to exercise their dogs in a fenced area.

Policy Review: Ray will review the Park-Rec policies at some time in the future and present suggestions, questions and issues for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Snow Bowl Strategic Planning: Landon reported that members of the Snow Bowl staff, the Town Manager, the Community Development Manager, and the Park-Rec Committee Chairman have begun meeting with a facilitator to create a strategic plan for the winter and three-season operations of the Snow Bowl.

Upcoming Events: Beth reported that there will be two more summer concerts in the park, that the Ragged Mountain Scuttle will be held on Sept. 19, and that pancake breakfasts and chairlift rides will be held every Sunday in October.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 2.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen