

Parks and Recreation Committee
Oct. 17, 2018

Present:

Tom Resick
Holly Edwards
Casey Leonard
Bob Falciani
Beth Ward
Ray Andresen
Mark Haskell
Sarah Ruef-Lindquist
Brian Robinson

Absent:

John Scholz

Guest:

Molly Stone – present regarding Smoking in Camden

Current policy does not include electronic devices and if the town adds that, then we can get a whole bunch of signs for free.

Molly has three templates we can use and tweak as needed. A policy, a resolution and an ordinance.

Bob

If you want something enforceable, you need an ordinance.

Beth

We did it as a policy the first time around, and we had signs in the park people could point to to educate others.

Ray

This committee will entertain a motion to update the policy to include vaping and electronic devices.

Bob

I would take it to Audra

Mark

Motion to approve and send it to select board to approve.

Vote

Approved. Beth will take it to Audra to find out if it's just a policy or needs to be an ordinance. Molly will work with Beth as well.

Tom

Curious, talking points on what is worse about regular smoking versus vaping.

Ray

The thing is, smoking and vaping and the life are a nuisance to anyone who does not smoke.

Tom

It's not just about personal health, but public health.

Guest

Robert Short, Megunitcook Rowing

Robert

Rowing founded in 2008, creating opportunity to make rowing a sport in Maine.

Rowing dock and storage area is hidden in the trees between public dock and fisherman's wharf.

Three 8-man boats, six 4-man boats, 2 doubles and 11 singles – their fleet.

As well as safety launch coach boats.

We adhere to Safe Boating and Coaching guidelines.

Each coach boat includes a safety duffel bag with personal flotation devices.

Youth and Adult programs.

Spring includes racing and regattas to compete against teams from other areas.

Over the last two years, enrollment has really increased. Do not see it increasing too much more as we have a pool of high school students that is pretty steady.

This is independent of the school, not school oriented. We are a community nonprofit and operate as such, so the program is open to anyone who wants to try it.

Master's program for experienced adult rowers, but not as popular.

Megunticook Mini Regatta, 25th year, 10 rowers from around the state that participate.

Answers to Mark Haskell's questions:

We have a revocable license with the town, and it includes no fee.

Majority of users are Camden residents.

We are currently talking to Jeremy about our footprint as it has increased. We have asked Landmark to come and survey the path/clearing and where our boats are stored.

Tom

Someone mentioned complaints from homeowners. Issue?

Robert

Yes, recently there was a complaint. The coaches use a megaphone to talk to the boats, and the coxswain has a small megaphone to talk back. This is in the morning. Two boats were racing each other to determine who was going to Boston to compete. It was loud, it was about 30 seconds, but loud.

We have adopted a policy of no megaphones for coaches and coxswains in the cove, in a marked area.

We are aware of the problem and are working to address it.

Ray

What would the club like to change in that you are talking to Jeremy and Audra?

Robert

We would like to have a Boathouse facility, with a covered shelter. Jeremy wants to document what we have first and then talk about what we can do next. It's an odd piece of land. The boatrack storage out there has been just wonderful. We have had no problem with vandalism, in part because you can't see it very easily.

We have five part-time coaches now. Need a YMCA membership to do the rowing classes there over the winter.

Tannery Talk – Nina

Read excerpt of a letter sent to the Free Press and other newspapers.

(See letter)

We have a grant for remediation, and we can't spend the money until we know what we need to do, what our options are. We need to hire an engineer to make that determination and that is what the RFQ is for. It will satisfy DEP's requirement, which we surmise is to encapsulate the area.

Tom

The RFP talks more about development than green space.

I would hope the work of the Tannery Development work group go forward.

And that's why I think it's important the Parks and Rec Committee is involved.

I hope that Jeremy and Audra are the only ones working on this.

Ray

I don't think anything to do with the tannery site is going to be done in secret. The TWG members will have an opportunity to speak about it, as well as the community in general. I know there are many people interested in having public park uses of that site.

Tom

I think if members of the P&R Committee are interested in its future, that we speak up.

Sarah

Isn't it also true there is a perpetual easement for the River Walk, and I am sure that would limit its commercial value.

Tom

If you care about the Farmer's Market being at the tannery site, we should speak up. They may need to move, even temporarily, and we should have some votes on it.

Snow Bowl Erosion

Beth

Bid was awarded to Packards (company). And now trying to work out details because we would have liked to do this work in May or June, not in the fall when grass does not grow. Question is whether we do a piece of it and wait until the spring to finish?

Mark

How will it be paid for?

Beth

Audra's plan was to clear out our reserves, use the \$10,000 set aside for trail maintenance and \$6,000 from ? The concern is we are stripped the Snow Bowl of any cushion.

\$31,000 out of general fund to start work and pay some bills this fall. Also then go to a public hearing and asking the town to cover the balance.

On a side note, Audra and I wrote a letter to the Foundation for their help, but have not heard back yet from Bob Gordon.

Casey

Any way to do this where the people who do the work have accounting for how the work goes. Performance Guarantee.

Beth

Park of the RFP was to fix the road, and nobody wanted to put their name on the road with a performance guarantee, the bid is so terrible.

Mark

The people who use the road need to be part of the discussion to pay for fixing the road.

Ray

Public meeting to come on funding this.

Beth

They will discuss having a board meeting Nov. 6, and then their next meeting will be a public hearing.

Ray

What happens if none of this work gets done this fall?

Beth

Nothing really happens. Won't affect overall erosion as it's local. There is one spot we need to do before winter, to fix a gully with a culvert. Keep it from eroding the earth, and travel through the culvert.

Brian

Going to the town for \$61,000, there is going to be some push back. The town is already putting \$20,000 into contingency. If there was an overage in an income category, could we earmark it for something like this.

Bike Racks

Tom is still investigating.

Signage

Holly is still working on.

Shirttail Park

Going to try and get a design, still in the works

Dog Waste

Still working on it

Toboggan Committee

Next Meeting

Nov. 14