

Town of Rowe Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 11th, 2023
6:30 PM
Hybrid Meeting, Zoom Participation or In-person Option

In attendance: Laurie Pike (Park Commissioner), Hannah Poplawski (Park Commissioner), Walter Quist (Park Commissioner), and Sean Loomis (Park Manager)
Audience of Citizens: Andrew Randazzo
Called to Order: 6:35 PM
Request that anyone who is recording the meeting inform the rest of the attendees.

Patch Cut Plan Update from Andrew

1. Prior to this meeting, Laurie and Andrew shared the Patch Cut Plan draft for the Park Commissioners and Manager to review and provide feedback on.
 - a. There are a couple grammatical edits to make before the final is posted on the Town website.
2. Andrew opened the discussion up to questions.
 - a. Laurie asked what the best outreach methods are and if we should allow a public comment period. Walt suggested that we send a Q&A sheet with the plan to help guide residents. Andrew's suggestions for outreach focused on encouraging conversation through in-person or virtual meetings. A newsletter writeup for the goal post and a FAQ sheet to send out to residents with the plan are good ways to get the conversation started.
 - i. During the meetings, the team who's developed the plan can start with a quick introduction and review of the project and then spend the rest of the time discussing and answering questions.
 - ii. Andrew suggested we pick a couple dates and times to offer the meetings.
 - iii. Emphasize this is a grant funded project.
 - b. Sean asked how other towns came to the decision to implement similar projects. North Adams recently voted to implement a patch cut project. Andrew is not sure if the decision was made by the town residents, Board of Selectmen, or Commission overseeing the project but they did have a few public meetings with stakeholders to encourage an open discussion to address stakeholder concerns.
 - c. Walt suggested in our outreach we take the perspective of research. This is not a project driven by income, it is for research and demonstrating climate smart practices.

2024 Cultural Council Grant Ideas

1. The Cultural Council applications for 2024 are due October 17th, 2023.
2. Some suggestions for the 2024 programs/projects included a presentation from the SVNHM sometime during the summer recreation program, building bluebird, bat or duck houses that participants could take home with them, an old growth booklet, purchasing equipment for the Vernal Pool Phenology Project, foraging programs, and creating paper copies of the new trail maps to send to residents.

Summer Season Recap from Park Manager

1. The summer rangers completed the boardwalks that were planned on the lakeview trail. Sean mentioned that there are a couple more sections that could benefit from boardwalks and could be done next summer.
2. The old growth habitat trail is roughed in. It will take some creative thinking to finish the trail since the material is not great, the loam is slippery and there are rocks/ledge just below that.
3. The rangers also completed normal maintenance and now most of the bridges in the park are redecked.
4. The Rec Program went really well, the director did a great job and will share a blurb about the program with Sean. Most days there were 10-15 kids.
5. This was the last year that our lifeguard could work with us. Sean suggested next year we increase the hourly rate because other local communities are paying their lifeguards more which prevents them from applying to this position.

Minutes for this meeting were approved by roll call vote on November 6, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 PM

Respectfully Submitted by,

Hannah Poplawski

Park Commissioner