

Town of Rowe Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2024
11:00 AM
In-person: Town Hall Meeting Room #1

In attendance: Laurie Pike (Park Commissioner), Hannah Poplawski (Park Commissioner), and Walter Quist (Park Commissioner).

Audience of Citizens: Cindy Laffond (Rowe Resident), Lori Ledger (Rowe Resident), Madison Schofield (Greenfield Recorder)

Called to Order: 11:02 AM

Request that anyone who is recording the meeting inform the rest of the attendees.

Discussion of Park Manager Position Interview Results:

- 1. Walt Quist made a motion to select Briel Gibson to fulfill the Park Manager position starting immediately. Laurie Pike seconded the motion. Approval by roll call vote; Walt Quist-yes, Laurie Pike-yes, Hannah Poplawski-recusing.**
2. Using the Wage Schedule provided by the town, we discussed and determined the appropriate starting salary for Briel based on the position requirements and her experience.
3. Laurie will contact Briel to let her know she has been selected and will also get the employee paperwork from Ben.

Unforeseen Business:

1. Laurie provided a copy of the FY25 budget for us to review. We conducted an initial overview so we could be prepared at the next meeting to discuss budget items in more detail and begin to create the FY26 budget.
 - a. The pontoon was not used this past summer and in recent years has been used less due to lack of interest in rides and a smaller area that it can be driven through due to sedimentation around the edges of the lake. Laurie suggested we look into trading it in for a paddle boat that could be used more often.
 - i. Cindy Laffond recommended we bring this issue to Town Meeting as the boat was paid for by taxpayers so the residents should have a say in what we do with the boat.
 - b. We also discussed the issue of finding swim instructors. Laurie will contact the Deerfield Academy, which may have a training program, so we have the cost for the budget. There is a resident in town interested in swim instruction and we would help pay for the course.
 - i. Lori Ledger asked about a time in 2017 where an employee went through the training and said it was paid for by the Park, Laurie responded that this is something we offer to everyone serious about the swim instructor training.
2. Hannah spoke with Meghan Siudzinski from the Franklin Conservation District about our invasive species in the Park. There is a grant that would allow us to hire a consultant to

create a management plan. Hannah suggested she speak with the entire committee about this opportunity during our December 2nd meeting.

Minutes for this meeting were approved by roll call vote on November 12, 2024.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:14 PM

Respectfully Submitted by,

Hannah Poplawski

Park Commissioner