

Town of Rowe Park Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2024

6:30 PM

In-person or Zoom Option: Town Hall Meeting Room #1

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

Audience of Citizens: Meghan Siudzinski (Franklin Conservation District)

Called to Order: 6:34 PM

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

Approval of October 15th & 21st, 2024 meeting minutes by roll call vote; Laurie Pike -yes, Hannah Poplawski-yes, Walter Quist-yes.

Work on Budget for Fiscal'26

1. Discussion of budget items, specifically operations and maintenance. Briel provided helpful insight to what may or may not be needed for next year. Laurie will reach out to several companies for quotes to help landscape Percy Point, build the bridge on Davis Mine Loop, and offer swim lessons.
2. Wage ranges for summer rangers will remain the same.
3. The final budget will be completed during our December meeting.

Next Steps in Operations Plan

1. Alex Barrett, of Long View Forest, attended the Board of Selectmen meeting last Thursday to share details of the cutting plan. This was signed by the BOS and submitted to the state. The plan was also sent to our Conservation Committee who has 10 days to submit comments.
2. Once approved by the DCR, Alex will remove the beech tree saplings and hopes to start the whole operation in January.

Unforeseen Business:

1. Grant Discussion with Meghan Siudzinski, Franklin Conservation District (FCD).
 - a. Hannah spoke with Meghan several weeks ago about a grant opportunity to remove invasive species in the northern section of the Park and possibly replant areas with native species.
 - b. Meghan introduced herself to the rest of the committee and asked what we were specifically looking for. Laurie suggested a hands-on workshop where residents could learn about the invasive species in town and possibly volunteer at the park to remove japanese knotweed or bittersweet. Walt would like to see coordination with other departments in Town. Meghan responded that the FCD is great at bringing people together and would be happy to involve multiple departments in the management of invasive species.
 - c. Meghan will include a "workday" in the grant she is currently working on where residents can have hands-on experience learning about the management of

Japanese knotweed. This can be paired with a resource page on the FDC website with a “best practices” toolkit for people to refer to .

- i. She will need a letter of support from us due by Tuesday, November 19, 2024.
2. The Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) offered to lead a free tree ID walk. Laurie has been in touch with them about possible dates in early spring.
3. There was a request from a resident to change the hours of the fitness center so it is open later in the evening. Laurie will speak with Deb about adjusting the hours to 5-7PM.

Minutes for this meeting were approved by roll-call vote on December 10, 2024.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted by,

Hannah Poplawski

Park Commissioner