

Town of Rowe Park Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2025, 5:15 PM

Location: Town Hall Meeting Room #1

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM.

Attendance:

Justine Krumm, Acting Park Commissioner

Arik Olsen, Park Commissioner

Laurie Pike, Park Commissioner

Briel Gibson, Park Manager

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes from April 21, 2025.

Approved unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes from May 5, 2025.

Approved unanimously.

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome to new Park Commissioner

- Arik Olsen was welcomed and thanked for joining the Commission. An overview of Park Commission responsibilities in Massachusetts was provided.

2. Overview of Park Department Projects and Grants

- Laurie provided updates on the status of current Woodlands Partnership (WP) grants, including submitted invoices for FY25 work. Once town payments are completed, reimbursement will be submitted.
- Briel gave an overview of enrichment planting and tree monitoring along Davis Mine and Davenport trails.
- The FY26 WP grant proposal includes an invasive species management plan, three community workshops, lumber for bridge and boardwalk maintenance, and a new trail groomer.
- The FY26 MVP grant proposal includes funding to open two 2-acre forest gaps on Davis Mine Loop, one with deer fencing to limit browse. It also includes trail tags for the Old Growth Habitat (OGH) trail, a new beach kiosk, a Forest Center website update, and collaboration with Indigenous partners on forest ecology.
- MA Audubon signage and the OGH trail interpretive booklet were also discussed as part of ongoing education initiatives.

3. Summer Staffing, Recreation Program, and Events

- Briel reported trails are 75% cleared, with recent work including lopping, leaf blowing, and removing downed trees. One reroute is flagged for completion during training week.
- The beach is open; dock and buoys are in place. Swim raft will be installed later in the week.
- The Summer Recreation Program will run Monday through Thursday, 10 AM–2 PM in July. Cait Semanie will serve as Director. Final dates will be announced through the Rowe School newsletter and town robocall.
- Two senior/community picnics are scheduled for July 24 and August 21. The Park Department will provide main food items; the COA and volunteers will provide sides and desserts.
- The Events Committee may request staff support for the Summer Social in July.
- D2R2 will use the picnic area in August. A dozen picnic reservations have already been made.
- Briel will contact Clay about weekend reservations and scheduling details.

4. Unforeseen Business Within 48 Hours of Posting

- Laurie recommended that a straighter hiking trail bypass be created at the far end of Davis Mine Loop to avoid the mountain biking zig-zag.
- A Goal Post article will be written on the Old Growth Habitat Trail, highlighting its location, interpretive signage, and educational value.
- The Commission discussed Trout Unlimited's request for collaboration on water quality monitoring upstream of the Deerfield River.
- Laurie proposed applying for a MassTrails grant if a nearby land purchase by the Conservation Commission proceeds.
- Laurie requested that the Assistant Rangers clean out the skatepark.
- The pontoon boat will not be placed in the lake this summer due to silting and the need for a new outboard motor.
- A salt block deterrent for leeches was discussed but deemed ineffective. The lifeguard will keep salt on hand for first aid if needed.

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for July 7, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:40 PM, all in favor.