

Meeting Minutes

Town of Rowe

Park Commission Meeting

Monday, September 8, 2025

5:15 PM

Attendance:

Park Commissioners Laurie Pike, Hannah Poplawski, Arik Olsen

Park Manager, Briel Gibson

Via Zoom: Kelly Walbert, Andrew Randazzo

Agenda:

Call to Order: 5:17

1. Approve meeting minutes from August 4, 2025.

Laurie yes, Arik yes.

2. Browning Bench update for powder beetle infestation.

1. Briel spot treated beams where infestation was most prevalent and has reached out to Abatement Extermination – no call back. Briel will reach out to other companies.

3. Cultural Council grant program ideas. Mushroom foraging, Birds of Prey presentation, Fitness classes, Cooking classes, etc.

1. Laurie will reach out to Tom Ricardi, Selmi and John Green. Hannah will reach out to Melissa on leading another mushroom walk.
2. Briel has an upcoming meeting with Pat T. and Meaghan from the Franklin Conservation District on replacing daylily beds with natives.
3. Commission in agreement to apply for funding for informational signage, bird boxes, and supplemental plantings of native plants for riding ring meadow area to support greater pollinator/bird habitat.

4. Discussion of summer season 2025 and improvement suggestions for next year.

1. Briel drafted a handbook for youth employees.

2. Commission discussed future of the rec programs, need to complete required MA camp paperwork.
 3. Revisited conversations on ADA walking trails.
5. Update on grant work.
1. Kelly from Mass Audubon introduced her work and updated on EEA funded education programs.
 - a. 18 3rd and 4th graders, single day program over 3 hours focused on Rowe's Forest health. Covered healthy forests, forest challenges, problems and solutions ect.
 - b. "Science in Massachusetts" program being supported by fy26 MVP grant, expanded to 7 lessons for this year. Will expand to include multiple seasons.
 - c. Deliverable on this program includes a tag line on forestry project signage, students will keep nature journals, Laurie suggested utilizing the storywalk signage.
 2. Andrew gave refresher on scope and budget of FY26 MVP.
 1. 1 year implementation grant focused on implementing various plans created over previous years.
 2. Task 1 Project Management, primarily FRCOG responsibility. Task 2 Community Engagement, MAS responsibility – this is where Kelly's work with Rowe School comes in. Forest Center updates are also under this task; this website is hosted by the Woodlands Partnership. Task 3 Forest Stewardship, mostly Rowe/FRCOG. Briel is responsible for old growth trail markers and interpretive kiosk portion of task 3 as well as partnering with Andrew on the assisted natural regeneration work.
 3. Andrew gave an update on current tree planting success in the park and made suggestions for style of tree tube in Davis mine project area. Arik asked questions on more proactive deer management strategies.
 3. Next steps for MVP grant include procurement conversations with FRCOG on what bidding process/subcontracting will look like involving MAS, Longview, Woodlands Partnership, and Pantermehl and Chagwas cultural center.

6. Any unforeseen business within the last 48 hours of agenda posting.

1. Selmi stopped in to ask about D2R2 event, Briel informed Selmi that they had not called yet to report damage to park tree.
2. He also informed the park commission that audio recording without consent in MA was illegal. Our options include posting signage at each camera/entry point or turning off audio recording. Briel turned off audio recording.

October 6 meeting

Adjourned 7:33