

Town of Rowe Park Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
October 3rd, 2022  
6:30 PM  
Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Laurie Pike (Park Commissioner), Hannah Poplawski (Park Commissioner) and Sean Loomis (Park Manager)  
Audience of Citizens: Walter Quist

Called to Order: 6:34 PM

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

Approval of September 12th, 2022 Park Meeting Minutes by roll-call vote: Laurie Pike-yes and Hannah Poplawski-yes.

Walter Quist should be appointed by the Select Board at their next meeting.

### **Cultural Council Grant Applications**

1. Applications are due October 17th.
2. Hannah is applying for a Winter Wildlife Tracking Program with David Ellis and a Mycology Program in the fall with Melissa Pariseau.
3. Laurie is applying for a Meet the Mammals Program, scheduled for Sep 2, 2023 at 10:30AM, and a Turtles! Program on July 20, 2023 at 11AM with the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum.

### **Ideas for Additional Programs**

1. Money not used from this year's Cultural Council Grants can be carried over into next year.
2. Hannah reached out to Dave Wattles at Mass Wildlife to ask if he would come to the park for a Bear Program. Dave said he is presenting for the City of Northampton who wanted to partner with other local organizations to increase the audience as much as possible.
  - a. This is a webinar presentation, ~45 minutes and followed by a Q&A which is about the same amount of time. He will include specifics to Rowe and the northern Berkshires.
  - b. There is no cost for this program. In December Dave will send more information. Tentative date is Wednesday, January 25th in the evening.
3. The Berkshire Botanical Gardens has events and programs that may be of interest to the Park. Walt recently went to a Pruning Event which was very educational. He will look into having presenters visit Rowe. The forester who led the event specializes in tree diseases and management and is from Worthington.

4. Walt also suggested a retired woman in Shelburne who worked with invasive species and could be asked to lead a program.
5. Reach out to Mark Stinson for a Wetlands Program in the Spring.

### **MVP and MTWP Grant**

1. MVP grant for \$190,000. We may be called upon to use the Park as a model forest and for forest walks. Bulk of our work will be applying for the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Laurie is leading this.
2. Received \$20,000 MTWP Grant to:
  - a. Purchase 2,200 trail blazes
  - b. Purchase lumber for the boardwalks
  - c. Design and purchase signage for the Kiosks.
    - i. Laurie will reach out to Andrea Wood to ask if these all have to go out to bid, if they would be combined, or if we could just get the money and purchase each component on our own (Last year we could not separate the tasks which worked out because they were all forestry related and Alex could do each project).

### **Other Grants**

1. Reapply for Mass Trails Grant.
  - a. Get back in touch with Amanda Lewis to see if we can get the American Made exception.
2. Other grants to look into are:
  - a. Community Forest Implementation Grant for Municipalities
  - b. Forest Stewardship Grant - helps us with our own Stewardship Plan
  - c. MA Wildlife Habitat Improvement Grant - may be geared towards hunting and fishing.
3. Stewardship Opportunities
  - a. There are a couple New England Forestry Foundation Properties in Rowe (Carpenter Read Memorial Forest on Dell Rd and Carey Memorial Woodland on Stone Hill Rd). NEFF encourages on-the-ground, volunteer stewardship for their individual parcels. It could be possible to form a partnership with them and have a liaison to work with NEFF and the Park. Walt is going to communicate with them. Lisa Hayden is the Outreach manager.

### **Park Manager Updates and Budget**

1. In the spring we need to be prepared to plant trees on Percy Point. We have a list of trees Alex suggested and will consult with Bill Latrell on tree choice. Possibly build a small picnic pavilion at Percy Point.
2. One of the Veber benches has been completed and is located on the right side of the beach area near the fire pits. The other will be larger and possibly be installed in the town common.
3. Fall and winter projects- general fall cleanup, leaf blowing and trail clearing, Sean has 15 signs that need routing, finish the lean to off the lakeview and babbling brook trail so it's ready for people to camp in, and contact Bill Clark for lumber to redeck bridges on Williams and Sabrina Rice trails.
4. Budget:
  - a. Anticipate changes in hourly wage. Minimum wage will be \$15 next year.
  - b. Possibly have the part time ranger position morph into the lifeguard position. 7 days, 56 hours. Two people to cover the lifeguard shift and one for the weekend shift. Ideally, both would be lifeguard trained.
  - c. Want to increase Rec Director and lifeguard wages. We do not have an 18 year old coming back to fill either position. Check other local places to determine a fair and competitive rate.
  - d. Swimming lessons, difficult to find someone. Laurie may put something in the Goal Post, post description/ad at Mohawk.
  - e. Determine start date for Deb at the fitness center.
  - f. Big ticket items include gravel for parking areas, beach sand, picnic pavilions, and possibly a new park truck.
  - g. Sean spoke with Scott Gilbert, we can purchase the used snowmobile which is a wide track, low gear work horse. The grooming attachment will need to be purchased separately/later - Heath got a grant to purchase a snowmobile/grooming equipment so maybe we could do the same.
  - h. Continue budget discussion during the next meeting in November.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:58 PM

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Hannah Poplawski  
Park Commissioner