

Rowe Park Commission Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2020
10 AM at the Park

In attendance: Laurie Pike, Susan Williams, and Selmi Hyytinen (all Park Commissioners).
Sean Loomis (Park Manager participated remotely by phone).
No audience of citizens.

Old Business:

1. There will be a Special Town Meeting on October 26 at noon outside of the Fire Station. The Park will be requesting \$22,000 for a new play structure to be built this spring in time for the summer season. The warrant lists the price as \$26,000 to include \$4000 for new sand. This was a special project requested for fiscal year '21 but was delayed until more information about finances coming from the state were known. Also at the Special Town Meeting the school will be asking for a new tractor for \$29,000. The Park has expressed an interest in using that tractor for snow blowing at the Park and leaf blowing.
2. There are two outstanding grants for Park programs this year that were not able to be given due to the pandemic guidelines. A request for an extension has been emailed to the Rowe Cultural Council but no response has been received. The presenter for both programs has retired and is no longer interested in doing the two programs if an extension is granted. There was also a discussion about possible presenters and programs for the next round of Cultural Council grants due in November (now extended to December 14 2020). It was noted that the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst may be a resource for finding a couple of programs to apply for the grants. We will look for possible programs that would interest the Rowe townspeople.
3. In the event that there is a request by townspeople for the fitness center to be opened a letter has been written to be sent to the BOH with the covid-19 guidelines that the fitness center staff would follow to insure the safety of everyone at the town hall. Currently, the BOS has decreed that the fitness center must remain closed though Mass covid -19 guidelines do allow gyms to be opened now with restrictions.

New Business;

1. The Forest Assessment is complete with a plan for implementation. The implementation of the plan will be up to the Park Commissioners and Park Manager. A timeline will be developed and grants will be applied for before implementing some of the more costly projects. All projects that are to be done will be communicated to the townspeople beforehand with plenty of time to respond and will adhere to Conservation Laws when applicable.
2. The park received another MTWP grant for the next year which will be used to place kiosks with important information, maps, sightings, etc. at major trail heads. The bidding process is in motion and the hope is that the kiosk will be built this spring in time for installation as soon as possible thereafter. A letter will be sent to the BOS requesting

that all information related to the grant be shared with the Park Commission and Park Manager as it is received.

3. Budget process for the next fiscal year begins soon. A request was made for a live animal program presented by the Southern Vermont History Museum to be one item on the list.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laurie Pike

Park Commissioner

Sue Alix

Park Commissioner

Chris Hyytinen

Park Commissioner