

Town of Rowe
Park Commission Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2020 6:30 PM
Online Zoom Meeting

In Attendance: Laurie Pike (Park Commissioner), Sue Williams (Park Commissioner), Chris “Selmi” Hyytinen (Park Commissioner) and Sean Loomis (Park Manager)

Agenda:

Meeting was called to order at 6:36 PM

Park Commission Meeting minutes from April 14, 2020 were approved by a roll call vote (Laurie Pike- yes, Sue Williams- yes, Chris Hyytinen- yes.

Old Business:

1. Discussed how it is going with implementing the Covid-19 guidelines at the park. This week the park beach and picnic area will be open from 8 AM- 8 PM. There will be two staff at the beach area during those hours to enforce social distancing, residents and their guests only, small groups of 10 or less, and to increase cleaning of facilities and equipment after each use. Swimming will continue to be “at your own risk” and area beaches will be contacted to determine if they will be using lifeguards at their beaches this summer to get a sense of the risks involved and safety for the lifeguards. Summer staff will be utilizing new safety procedures during the pandemic in accordance with the CDC and Massachusetts Government Covid-19 guidelines such as social distancing, not sharing equipment, working in groups of three or less, frequent sanitizing, masks when not able to social distance, etc.
2. Free yoga for Rowe residents will take place at the beach on Tuesday mornings from 9-10 AM with Kate Peppard. People will need to sign up with Kate as only 9 participants will be allowed in accordance with the MA Government guidelines of needing to limit group sizes to no more than 10 (instructor included).
3. Due to the poor condition of the tennis courts a sign will be posted on the entrance to “use the courts at your own risk.”
4. The Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Grant for 2020 Forestry Assessment has been extended to September 30, 2020 and so the next public outreach meeting will be scheduled for August 13, 2020 online.
5. The MTWP grant for 2021 has been completed and approved by the BOS. It will be submitted by the June 18, 2020 deadline and is for the building of kiosks and trail signs to more adequately display important information such as Park Rules and Regulations, map of park trails, safety information, sightings of wildlife, and general information about the different flora and fauna that one might encounter while using the Park’s trails.

New Business:

1. The 2021 operation budget will be reduced on the floor of the annual town meeting by \$2300 as there are several summer programs which will not be able to take place this year due to the pandemic.
2. Goal Post articles for the month of July will include information on the latest guidelines for summer use of the beach and picnic area, yoga classes at the beach on Tuesday mornings, senior picnics dates and sign-up information.
3. No final decision was made about town employees from another town using the beach and picnic area this summer. We will discuss again at the next meeting when we have a better sense of how effective we have been able to be at enforcing social distancing and accommodating the needs of the Rowe residents and their guests to be safe during this time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Laurie Pike
Park Commissioner

Proved by:

Name:
Laurie Pike
Park Commissioner

Date:

Sue Williams
Park Commissioner

Chris Hyytinen
Park Commissioner