

Town of Rowe
Park Commission Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2021
Zoom Online Meeting due to Covid-19 Restrictions

In attendance: Sean Loomis (Park Manager), Laurie Pike (Park Commissioner), Chris Hyytinen (Park Commissioner) Absent: Sue Williams (Park Commissioner)

Audience of Citizens: B.J. Roche

Call to Order at 6:31 PM

Park Meeting Minutes from December 7, 2020 were reviewed and approved by roll call vote. Laurie Pike-yes and Chris Hyytinen-yes

New Business:

1. B.J. Roche, Cultural Council Representative, spoke to the Park Commission about a Cultural Council grant that was written for movie nights to take place at the park this summer. Covid-19 protocols will be followed if still applicable and social distancing should be doable as the movies will be screened outdoors. Ms. Roche has some concerns that the existing equipment at the school may not be adequate and is looking at possible grants for new equipment such as a projector and movie screen which could be used by all Rowe Town Departments, for example the library, school, senior programs, park, fitness center, and so forth. She will attend the next Park meeting with any updates on her findings. The Park Commissioners are in support of all efforts to provide movies at the Park during the summer evenings.
2. Park Commissioner, Chris Hyytinen, proposed that a Fitness Trail be constructed at the Park with a series of outdoor exercise stations along the trail. He noted the need for people to be able to exercise safely during this time of restrictions due to Covid-19. The trail could be ½ to 1 mile in length with fitness information and exercises to perform at each station. Further research will be done on the cost of such a project and whether there might be grant money to fund it.
3. It was noted that the dam was not opened during a period of heavy rain recently and several bog bridges along the Lake View Trail floated off their pilings. Sean would like to meet with the dam keepers and discuss responsibilities for the dam during high water.
4. The bulk of the meeting was spent going over the fiscal '22 budget line items and comparing them to last year. It was noted that the Commissioners reduced the fiscal '21 budget at Annual Town Meeting by 2300 dollars from the original request due to several programs being unable to take place during the summer of 2020 because of Covid-19 restrictions. It should therefore also be noted that operations for fiscal '22 will appear to have increased slightly more than it would have had the money not been removed from the original fiscal'21 budget.
5. Special Projects for fiscal year '22 will include tree removal at the dam and Percy Point picnic area. A quote of \$9500 if done all at once was obtained from Jim's Tree Service of Greenfield (\$10,500 if not done at once and requiring additional trips to Rowe). The

other special project if approved would be a Trails Assessment with recommendations for improved trail maintenance, tracking, planning, and mapping for the long term sustainability of our trails system. This is one of the areas for improvement as outlined in the plan from the Forest Assessment that was completed last September. A quote was received from Long View Forest Management for this project of \$4,420. The Commissioners are looking into a possible grant that would reimburse half of the cost after the project has been completed.

Old Business:

1. Requests for bids for the kiosks for the MTWP grant project have gone out and are expected back in January. The kiosks are to be completed and installed at the end of the fiscal year. FRCOG will be handling this process.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:38 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Laurie Pike

Park commissioner

January 4, 2021 Park Meeting Minutes were approved by roll-call vote at the February 1, 2021 Park Meeting.