

Town of Rowe  
Park Commission Meeting Minutes  
May 3, 2021  
Online Zoom Meeting

In Attendance: Laurie Pike (Park Commissioner), Chris "Selmi" Hyytinen (Park Commissioner), Hannah Poplawski (Park Commissioner), Sean Loomis (Park Manager).

Meeting called to order at 6:41 PM

Park Meeting Minutes from the April 5, 2021 meeting approved by roll-call vote. Laurie Pike-yes and Chris "Selmi" Hyytinen-yes

Old Business:

1. BOH is still waiting for more specifics from the state on Covid protocols for this summer. For now the Park will stick with groups of 25 – 50 people with a reservation in advance for parties and large family picnics. Groups may be required to wear masks and social distance. Park will put together a list of rules for large groups to self-enforce that will be given out with the reservation request. With large groups the Manager will provide 1 to 2 extra staff to insure that rules will be followed. There is a \$25 fee for reservations.
2. The summer season should be a little more relaxed with many people being vaccinated. Trash cans will be available again although people using the park will be encouraged to continue Carry in /Carry out when possible. The beach area may continue to be staffed from 8 AM to 8PM but gates will not be locked unless there is an issue.
3. We agreed that School of Choice families may return to the park this summer Monday through Fridays. SC families will not be allowed to bring guests to help maintain manageable numbers at the beach. A list of rules will go home with a letter to families before the end of the school year.
4. A meeting will be set up with the Rowe Camp Director about Rowe Camp participants attending the beach area from 10 AM – 2PM Monday through Friday. It will be as in the past, 10 participants with 2 staff members and a certified lifeguard. No large Rowe Camp group gatherings will be allowed this summer.
5. It was decided not to do a Recreation Program this summer due to the difficulty with finding an experienced director to enforce mask wearing and social distancing as children have not been vaccinated yet. The budget will be reduced at Annual Town Meeting to reflect the amount of wages needed to run the program. There will be a Special Program for children on August 3<sup>rd</sup> called Patterns in Nature funded by the Rowe Cultural Council. We will continue to look for a swim instructor for swim lessons this summer by contacting the YMCA in Greenfield.
6. Bear Playground Inc. has won the bid for the construction and installation of a new playground approved at a special town meeting Oct. 2020. Nancy White, a MA certified Playground Construction Supervisor, is being consulted to look at the design plans and advise if anything needs to be adjusted before installation. Surface material will be wood chips. Due to MA prevailing wages the bid is a few thousand dollars over the

amount requested and the Park will try to absorb the overage out of the regular operating budget for '22.

New Business:

1. There will be a return of lifeguards this summer. If a lifeguard is not available on a particular day a sign will be displayed warning participants that “ swimming is at their own risk.”
2. Hannah Poplawski educated us on the processes to follow to certify vernal pools. Two of the Park’s vernal pools have been submitted for certification. It was suggested that perhaps next spring some of the classes at Rowe School could be involved in certifying other vernal pools at the park.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laurie Pike

Park Commissioner

The May 3, 2021 Park Meeting Minutes were approved at the June 7, 2021 Park meeting by roll-call vote.