

Town of Rowe Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2021
6:30 PM
Online Zoom Meeting

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

Audience of Citizens: The Gordan residents joined briefly at 6:57.

Called to Order: 6:33 PM

Approval of July Park Meeting Minutes by roll-call vote: Laurie Pike-yes, Chris "Selmi" Hyytinen-yes, and Hannah Poplawski-yes.

Programs and Collaborations

1. The Wildlife Tales Program with the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum is scheduled for September 4, 2021 at 10 am. This will occur at the Park due to the larger outdoor space. Hannah will contact Sue Williams to post a description in the Goal Post, post on the Rowe School Facebook page to advertise the program, send an email to the town administrator about putting out a town wide call and work in collaboration with the library to create and distribute flyers.
2. We still need to discuss with Molly the details regarding the book swap (ie. who is going to build/donate/buy the structure that holds the books, when would she like to start, and where does she plan on putting it at the Park).

Forest Legacy Program

1. Hannah gave a brief description of the Forest Legacy Program, which is a voluntary program that provides funding for landowners who wish to protect their forested land. The Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership is trying to get support from the towns they serve to expand the Forest Legacy Area into these towns so landowners can get this funding. Hannah will be attending the next Select Board meeting to discuss the program and answer questions they may have.

Fitness Center

1. The plan for reopening the Fitness Center was submitted to the Board of Health so we are waiting for their approval. The Town Administrator has money in the COVID Relief Fund that can be used to purchase the air purifiers after approval from the Board of Health. Two residents have asked when it will open with many others interested. The Park Commission needs to decide what the hours of operation will be now that Paul is no longer there and Danielle is there earlier

to clean. Right now we know that there will be someone in the Town Hall from 12 pm-5 pm so those are the expected hours of operation.

Facilities under Park Management

1. We continued our discussion from last month about what options we have for maintaining the tennis courts as well as the skateboard park and riding ring. The tennis courts will be more than a repair, they will have to be completely replaced whether that is with new courts or with a multipurpose court that includes tennis, wall ball, basketball, etc. This can be up to the taxpayers to vote on in 2022. We will also need someone to come and evaluate the space we have and guide us on how we can fund this project. The skatepark and riding ring are not in bad shape and need some minor repairs. The Park Manager has the materials to fix the gate to the riding ring which can be done soon. One of the members brought up the idea of relocating the skatepark to the Park so they get more use, so that is under consideration.
2. One way to receive funding for these projects is to use money from the Capital Improvement Plan. The Park Commission can approach the Select Board about these conditions and determine if these facilities are covered under this plan, and if not request that they are now.

Park Updates

1. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid has been found on hemlocks near the dam. This is an invasive insect that inhibits twig growth and can kill the tree if left untreated. The Park Commissioners are thinking this may be a great topic to use for a workshop and raise awareness. It is likely we should begin thinking of treatment options.
2. The person we are using for the trail assessment has informed us that he is currently doing office work and when the leaves drop, around mid fall, he will be at the park to finish the assessment.
3. Tree removal is all set to happen in the fall, the contract just needs to be signed. The Park Manager will contact the Town Administrator about this after the meeting. A lot of trees will be cut down during this process and replanted with new species that are determined by Bill Letrel. Since this will be a big project we will compose an article for the September Goal Post that explains why we are doing this.
4. Chris talked to the lifeguards about getting in contact with Dennis Annear about the neck brace and protocols.

Managers Report

1. Small radios for the Park Crew have been purchased but we are still waiting on the larger ones. For these the Park Manager is trying to get a separate channel to use from the highway department. Lance from the Highway Department needs to get a new licence so once that happens we can get our own separate channel. The price for the big radios is \$300.00.
2. The kiosks that are being constructed for the trails have not yet been started. The Park Manager has called multiple times with no response so he will stop in to get an update on them since they are due in 28 days. The Park Commission added that we would like for the elementary students to get involved with what goes on the kiosks (ie. checklist of what you can see on the trails, information about wildlife, brochures, art projects, etc.)
3. Root and debris removal on the Northwest View Trail has been completed with the trail sign posted and the boardwalk on the Beach Trail has been finished. The boardwalk is 170 feet long but it is possible they will expand it a little further if they can reroute the trail and avoid wetlands. Another part of the Beach Trail has a large box with stone and dirt that you walk over. Right now the trail is messy from all the rain and mud but when everything dries out it should look great. The Park Crew also fixed the water bars on Davenport. They are working in one big group instead of splitting up because two crew members left.
4. A review of the payroll budget will be done to see where they are at. The Park Manager knows the date when the older kids (in or starting college) will be done but he is still waiting to hear when the younger crew members will be done for the summer. The lifeguard will be available Labor Day. There is one weekend coming up with no lifeguards available so the Park Manager will put out a call so residents know it's swim at your own risk for the weekend.
5. Last month's senior picnic went well with 17 people attending. Some residents stayed to eat at the Park while others took it home. There was only one meal that was delivered. These picnics may be a good place to advertise the programs that we host. The next one is scheduled for August 19th, 2021.
6. The first day of school will be August 25th, 2021. This will be another great place to advertise programs.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:26 PM

Respectfully Submitted by,
Hannah Poplawski
Park Commissioner