

Town of Rowe Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 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: None

Called to Order: 6:38 PM

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

Fitness Center

1. Deb Lively will be at the Fitness Center on Mondays and Wednesday from 9-11 AM and 5-7 PM.
2. Monday, October 18th, 2021 Deb will lead a demonstration on how to use the equipment safely in the Fitness Center and answer any questions the Fitness Center's users have.
 - a. The Park Commissioners will speak with Janice to send out an all call Thursday, October 14th, 2021 to Rowe residents so they can attend the demonstration if they would like.

Grants, Programs and Collaborations

1. The Cultural Council Grants are due October 15th, 2021. The Park Commission would like to apply for a couple of them.
 - a. One, to use the grant money to hire someone to build the Little Free Library. Sean Loomis is going to reach out to someone he knows and ask if they would be interested in building this and what their plans would look like and find out how much this will cost. The library director would like the Little Free Library to be located near the picnic tables that are close to the beach in hopes this will encourage people to read and participate in this book exchange.
 - b. Two, Hannah Poplawski is going to reach out to the Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) to find out if they have recommendations for a wildlife tracker who could host a program this winter.

- c. Three, we would also like to plan a mushroom ID program for the spring of 2022.
2. After some discussion we decided to hold off on applying for a grant to use for a Pollinator Garden until we research what this will actually entail. A few things we are wondering is if we scatter the seeds or plant seedlings, where is the best place to plant the seeds, do we need to till the area we would like to use, should we be planting more milkweed/what other plants are most beneficial to pollinators?
3. Other grants that we plan on researching are the Mass Trail Grant Program, the DCR Grants, MTWP Grants, and the Community Forest Implementation Grant. We still have a lot of management projects and events we would like to do and these grants would increase the possibility of these things happening. We need to discuss which projects are a priority for the next year or two, what we can use these grants for specifically, and when the applications are due.

Park Updates

1. Laurie and Sean reached out to a couple Tennis Court Companies since the last meeting;
 - a. The place in Pittsfield is not interested in this kind of project but recommended sticking with local companies.
 - b. Advantage Tennis has not called back yet, we would like to have them update the estimates they gave us a few years ago.
 - c. Cape and Island will not travel this far but provided some helpful advice. Typically the pavement material used on tennis courts is cheap and scrapes from other projects. They recommended looking into post tension concrete which is a better quality material but more expensive.
 - d. Another lead is Classic Turf and Sports Tech in CT. Someone will reach out to them.
2. We would like to give the townspeople options for what to do with the Tennis Courts. Another idea would be to have the tennis court and basketball court at Rowe Elementary school instead of the Park, but that would have to be discussed with the Principal and School Committee.
3. The park's truck is getting old and requires more maintenance. We discussed splitting the cost of a new (used) truck with the school which could then be used by the janitor at the school for plowing, trash, and other maintenance needs and by the crew at the Park during the summer. This would need to be discussed with the School Committee.

4. Once we receive the final trail assessment we can begin researching what kind of equipment would improve the efficiency of trail work and make it faster to complete jobs. Sean suggests a mini excavator to do the rough work on trails and then have the crew go back in with the hand tools they usually use to clean up and finish the job. Possible grants to apply for are the MassTrail Grant and grants from the DCR for the mini excavator.
5. In preparation for next summer, we are starting to think about swim lessons. The Park used to do swim lessons and open it up to the children of Heath and we would split the cost with them. This could be a possibility for next year. We could also reach out to the YMCA since that program was popular with both residents and non residents attending. However, the Park Commissioners and Park Manager think the best option would be to have our own swim instructor who goes through the certification and can also be a lifeguard for us.

Managers Report

1. The Kiosks will arrive on October 6th, 2021 and will be stored in the Soule barn until they can be installed.
2. The dead or infected white pine trees at Percy's Point and near the green bridge on the Lake View Trail will be removed in November. This is the best time to do it when there is no snow on the ground and it is easier to clean up. There will be a crane at Percy's Point to aid in the removal of the trees. There are also two trees in the Park area that will be removed.
3. Once the removal of the tree in the location of the new playground is approved by the Conservation Committee, Bears Playground will begin construction.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:06 PM
Respectfully Submitted by,
Hannah Poplawski
Park Commissioner