

Town of Rowe Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2022
6:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Laurie Pike (Park Commissioner), Chris "Selmi" Hyytinen (Park Commissioner), Hannah Poplawski (Park Commissioner), Sean Loomis (Park Manager)
Audience of Citizens: John Hillier

Called to Order: 6:31 PM

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

Snowmobile Access Trail

1. John Hillier asked the Park Commission for permission to create a snowmobile access trail from his property to the 1792 Trail to help make grooming the snowmobile trails easier. He discussed this idea with the Indianhead Snowmobile Club and they were in support of it.
2. From the northwest corner of John's property, he would enter park property and clear the old 1792 Road (about 50-100 yards) to connect to the 1792 Trail, giving him access to the snowmobile trails at the park.
 - a. The Park Commissioners and Park Manager discussed avoiding other people's property with John. He will mark the route he plans to use on the old 1792 Road and get approval from Sean.
 - b. The old road needs debris removed which can be done during the winter. This does not require an RDA from the Conservation Commission.
 - c. We discussed putting up signage to deter hikers from continuing on this access trail from the 1792 trail. The access trail will be for snowmobiles only. John suggested using signs that the Indianhead Snowmobile Club uses so they are familiar with the language and appearance.
 - i. There are not any connecting trails to this access trail that would create traffic. From the old 1792 Road to John's property it would be a dead end.
3. Laurie Pike made a motion to allow John Hillier to create a trail that would help groom the snowmobile trails and allow access to the 1792 Trail.
 - a. Roll-call votes to approve the creation of a snowmobile access trail: Laurie Pike-yes, Chris "Selmi" Hyytinen-yes, and Hannah Poplawski-yes.

Continuation of Budget Planning

1. We continued our conversation about finalizing the salary of the Park Manager. We used the Wage and Salary Schedule presented by the BOS and came up with an appropriate amount of points based on his experience, knowledge, responsibilities and importance at the park. We adjusted the Park Managers Salary on the budget accordingly.

2. Sean received quotes for the UTV and siding. The best UTV with all accessories would cost \$36,000 and the siding will cost \$6,000. This was added to the budget.
3. Overall, the budget increased by 7% from the Fiscal '22 budget.

Mass Trails Grant

1. Sean and Laurie spoke with Amanda Lewis who awards the money for the Mass Trails Grant. Amanda informed them that the UTV would not qualify for the grant. The grants are awarded for equipment or resources that support trail construction (and have no other purpose), promote interconnecting trail networks, and improving trail conditions. Since the UTV would serve other purposes besides trail construction we could not apply for this grant to purchase a UTV.
2. We are applying for a mini excavator instead. This would be very helpful for improving and constructing trails in the park and it could be used to help with the Mohawk Mahican Trail that the Town of Heath is currently working on extending.
 - a. The quote for the mini excavator is \$30,000. It is 3 feet wide and has a blade and tracks, boom and bucket.
 - b. The Grant covers 80% of the cost. The town will be reimbursed for the 80% if we are awarded the Grant and it is approved by the Town.
 - c. Hannah will reach out to Michael Cucchiara to find out where they are in the M&M trail extension process and ask how we can help with trail construction.
3. Sean and Laurie are going to put all of this information together and meet with Beth Giannini from FRCOG who will write the grant for us.

MTWP Grant and DCR Grant Ideas

1. There are two additional grants the Park Commissioners can think about applying for, the Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership Grant which is due in April and the Department of Conservation and Recreation Grant also due in April. The Forest Stewardship Plan has a list of recommended actions the park should take in the next 10 years that we can review for ideas.
2. Some ideas that we are considering;
 - a. Signage for the new kiosks that will be installed this summer.
 - b. Motorized wheelbarrow to assist in moving gravel for trail construction and maintenance.
 - c. Construction of an old growth trail.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted by,
Hannah Poplawski
Park Commissioner