

Town of Rowe Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 9th, 2022
6:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Laurie Pike (Park Commissioner), Hannah Poplawski (Park Commissioner), Sean Loomis (Park Manager) and Joshua Rapp from MA Audubon.
Audience of Citizens: Gordon Residence

Called to Order: 6:34 PM

Request that anyone who is recording the meeting inform the rest of the attendees.

Approval of February 7th Park Meeting Minutes by roll-call vote: Laurie Pike-yes and Hannah Poplawski-yes.

MVP Grant Background from Josh Rapp

1. The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program provides support to MA cities and towns to begin the process of planning for climate resiliency. The MVP is designed to enhance forest resiliency and implement climate smart practices. Because the Town of Rowe already has a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) and has completed many of the suggested actions within that plan, Joshua is suggesting that we update our FSP to include specific actions for climate smart practices.
2. The MVP grant is focused on 5 major implementation topics. It is not designed for recreational uses. 1-2 year grant.
 - a. Invasive control
 - b. Protecting seedlings from animal browsings.
 - c. Protecting future forests and helping forests regenerate.
 - d. Implementing resilient harvest practices.
 - e. Climate informed forest access and forestry operations.
3. Implementing practices include
 - a. An Open Space and Recreation Plan to increase project opportunities.
 - b. Monitoring forest resiliency practices.
 - c. Outreach and education - wood walks.
 - d. A Virtual Climate Center Website. This could be hosted by the MTWP and highlight the practices that are happening in the MTWP region. Could also provide technical assistance to private landowners. The Town of Rowe would need to sign off on this.
4. MA Audubon will be writing this grant with involvement from the Town of Rowe. Due mid-May 2022. This is a 75/25 Grant. For rural towns it is possible it could be 90/10.

MTWP Application Ideas

1. Trail Blazes- Sean has calculated that we will need 2,207 round, 3" metal discs for the Park trail system. The blazes would be placed every 100' on the trails. Sean is going to try and get a quote for these but we still need to decide on the design (Trail names, color, if we will include trail uses)
2. Signage for the kiosks. Sean suggested that we look into Voss Sign to create a visual of the flora and fauna and various habitats found within the park. We also discussed using posters that are already made.
3. Signage for the old growth trail that is going to be designed this year.
4. Purchasing local lumber for replacing or constructing bog bridges and boardwalks on the trails and for trail signs. Sean will collect measurements and provide a quote before the next meeting. We discussed pressure treated vs. cedar boards and for environmental reasons, we would prefer to use Cedar 6"X6" boards. Cedar boards should last about 20 years.
5. Hannah will contact Peggy Sloan after the Park Commissions April 4th meeting with all the information required for the MTWP Grant write up.

Cultural Council Grants

1. The Park Commission received \$675 for Programs from the Cultural Council.
2. The Cultural Council would like to host 2 music groups at the park this summer with a food truck or Laurie suggested a town picnic (potluck style) for one of these. Will discuss more with the Cultural Council.

Programs with Rowe Town Library

1. Donna Butske reached out to the Park Commission inquiring if we would like to participate in the Library's Three Part Movie Night they are planning for this summer. In the next couple of weeks there will be a meeting to discuss details and possible movie ideas.
 - a. A blow up movie screen was used for the Halloween outdoor movie at the Park. If the Library suggests that the movies are shown at the Park we can reach out to the school to find out if that was the school or a parent brought it in. Sean has a movie projector that could be used.
2. The summer reading theme this year is "Off the Beaten Path". We will start to think about programs that fall under this theme to collaborate with the Library.

Summer Employees and Recreation Program Details

1. In April we will provide information about summer employment and the Recreation Program to the Rowe Goal Post. A few employees from last summer are planning on

returning. There is one lifeguard returning and Sean will reach out to the Y and let them know we are looking for another one. Summer Park positions go to Rowe residents first and if more people are needed it is opened to non residents.

2. Summer Rec. Program
 - a. Dates: July 18th- August 11th. Monday-Thursday
 - b. Ages: 5-12 (rowe residents and school of choice)
 - c. Swimming lessons will be included for two of the four weeks.
 - d. We will send a letter in the School Newsletter and post on the Facebook page to find out how many families are interested within the next month or two.

Misc

1. The YMCA has not been in contact regarding swim lessons for this summer. Sean will reach out this week to try to get some information.
2. Hale from Longview Forests has made some progress on the updated trail maps. Since this was a Special Project it needs to be paid by June.
3. Downgrading the UTV to exclude some of the accessories (only buying the plow for it). A used snowmobile can be used to groom the trails during the winter.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted by,
Hannah Poplawski
Park Commissioner