

Town of Rowe Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2022
6:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Laurie Pike (Park Commissioner), Hannah Poplawski (Park Commissioner) and Sean Loomis (Park Manager)
Audience of Citizens: None

Called to Order: 6:33 PM

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

Approval of June 13th Park Meeting Minutes by roll-call vote: Laurie Pike-yes and Hannah Poplawski-yes.

Plan for Tennis Courts

1. Laurie Pike has been organizing the plan to redo the Tennis Courts. Before the meeting she was sent an example plan from Shelburne Falls so we could review specific steps within that to determine which would be necessary in our own plan.
2. We decided it would be best to look into hiring an engineer so they can tell us the exact process for replacing the courts.

Review of RTV Bids

1. We received all the bids for the UTV. Every bid includes the same accessories.
2. Our discussion focused on two points. One, whether we should buy the UTV with tracks so it could be used to groom the trails in the winters or purchase a snowmobile to do that, and two, which company should we go with?
 - a. Regarding the latter, Bacon's is the closest to us in Williamsburg MA which would be helpful for when the RTV needs servicing. After some discussion we decided this is the company we would like to purchase from.
 - b. Regarding the former, Sean has reached out to Scott Gilbert who has used snowmobiles we could purchase for 3-4 grand and then someone local could build a specific groomer for the trails at the Park. This would be the cheaper option.
3. In the end we decided to purchase the UTV from Bacon's without the tracks and purchase a used snowmobile from Gilbert that we could put a groomer on, and buy a plow for the UTV. Sean will double check that we can afford the various parts of this option without exceeding the allocated amount from the Town's Capital Stabilization Fund.

Park Managers Updates

1. There has been someone checking stickers almost everyday. Note that the school of choice parents have guest passes.
2. Two employees are assisting with the Rec Program. The summer camp has been going well with ~20 kids everyday. Swim lessons will not be offered this year.
3. Almost all the kiosks have been installed, one left to install on the trails and the nice one at the Park headquarters.
4. It was noted Rowe Camp kids used inappropriate language while at the beach in front of other visiting families. Sean will mention this to Ben before the second group of Camp kids visit this Friday.
 - a. Sean noticed the Camp closed off the trailhead off of Kings Highway. He will discuss this with Ben, but if they keep it closed off we will let them know we will not maintain it (since it is not on Park Property) and there will not be a kiosk there.
5. James Harrison has resigned from the lifeguard position, Mikey said he can pick up shifts. Ashfield lake has extra staff so Sean will reach out to them and find out if any of their lifeguards would be interested in working at the park two days a week.
6. Trail work
 - a. The first rerouting on the Beach trail has been completed and the second section should be completed this week.
 - b. The crew will start working on the new trail off Robs View soon, this will leave the stone pit on Davis Mine Rd and go north to the view point. Includes switch backs. Exact route is still to be determined.
 - c. After the Robs View trail is complete the Old Growth Habitat Trail is next. If the summer crew does not have time to start this Sean will work on it throughout the fall and winter.
7. Laurie noticed there is some Japanese Knotweed around the Town Hall that the crew could remove if they have time.

2022 and 2023 Programs

1. The Southern Vermont Natural History Museum will be visiting the Park Sep. 3 for an Owl program.
2. Hannah is going to reach out to Melissa to confirm the date for the Mushroom Program, expect this to be for late September or October.
3. Grant applications for the 2023 Cultural Council are due mid October so we should begin reaching out to local guides to plan programs for next year.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:56 PM

Respectfully Submitted by,

Hannah Poplawski

Park Commissioner