

Town of Rowe Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 4th, 2022
6:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

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

Called to Order: 6:32 PM

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

Approval of March 9th Park Meeting Minutes by roll-call vote: Laurie Pike-yes, Chris Hyytinen-yes and Hannah Poplawski-yes.

Update on Current MTWP Grant

1. Longview Forest bid on our current MTWP Grant projects. This includes planting oak seedlings, monitoring Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, identifying and designing a 20-acre old growth forest reserve and trail, and inoculating White Ash trees against Emerald Ash Borer.
2. The projects will be completed during the first part of June. Hopefully Longview Forests can sign the contract this week and get started ASAP.
3. Hannah and Sean will reach out to Rowe School to determine if the 3rd-6th grade teachers would like their students to help plant the oak trees and monitor hemlock plots. If they do, Sean can set up a time for them to meet with Alex so they can be trained.

MTWP 2022 Application

1. For this years MTWP Grant we are going to apply for-
 - a. New trail blazes for all the trails - Sean has calculated the number of blazes needed and the number of stainless steel nails to hang them.
 - b. Lumber to finish the boardwalks on the Lakeview Trail. We can buy the decking from a local source and then buy the pressure treated from the hardware store.
 - i. If we got the grant, Sean could bring the lumber across the lake on a sled during the winter of 2023 and stage it on the Lakeview Trail so it is easier to start during the spring of 2023.
 - c. Weatherproof signs - Staples has a nice, affordable selection. Can get 11"X17" or 3'X4' signs for each of the kiosks (13).
 - i. Each sign would include information about the particular trails, flora and fauna, rules and regulations, etc.

- ii. Sean knows a graphic designer who could design the signs for us and provide a jpeg of the final design. Then we could take the jpeg to staples and have them print the signs for us.
- iii. Nails and equipment to hang up the signs.

Town of Heath Beach Usage Inquiry

1. Kate Peppard had reached out to Laurie asking if Rowe could sell a limited number of passes to Heath residents. A couple of concerns were brought up about this proposal. One being that selling a park pass is not an equitable solution because it would exclude people who could not afford to buy one. Another concern is that if we offer passes to Heath then we could be approached by other Towns who would also like passes to the Park. This could become overwhelming. This proposal would also need to be approved by Voters at the Annual Town meeting. We concluded to tell Kate that we would not be selling passes to Heath and remind her that Heath residents are allowed to use other areas of the Park including Percy's Point, the Dam, and all the trails.

Park Managers Report

1. James and Michael Harrison will be returning as lifeguards for this summer. With the two of them most days should be covered but Claudia Johnson from Heath can fill in a couple days as well. The remaining summer staff is still TBD. Applications for summer employment are due at the end of April so we will know more then.
2. Lance will be taking the grasshoppers this year.
3. The Recreation Program will be for the last two weeks of July and the first two weeks of August. School of Choice families will have to pay \$100.00 whether they are there for all 4 weeks or just a couple weeks. Laurie is going to call the YMCA and ask if they have any swim instructors that could come during the Rec Program so we could offer lessons.
 - a. Hannah will contact Laurie Laffond at the school and ask her to put a flyer in the school newsletter with program information so we can get an idea on the number of interested participants.
 - b. We will also put a blurb about it in the May Goal Post.
4. Mary Lynn Sabourin of the Franklin Land Trust inquired if the 2022 D2R2 ride could access the park as a lunch site on August 20th. They will have their own volunteers that will set up lunch, water and soft drinks for participants and will also take care of clean up. They also have someone who is catering popup tents and tables. Park Committee members said that it would be fine for them to use the park for lunch and that it would be okay for the D2R2 participants to use the bathroom at the park (FLT would not need to supply a porta-potty).
5. We discussed the benches for Florence Veber and preferred the bench design with the backs. Sean has told them Percy Point may not be the best place to put them but they

could be installed on the Town Common or next to the Pavillian at the park. Judith Slowinski reached out to Sean with information about the builder.

6. Sean will be going to see Hale in the next couple of weeks to finalize the spreadsheet for the assessment portion of the project and to finalize the trail map. The new trail map will have a QR code that redirects you to the Avenza app where you can see exactly where you are in the Park. There will also be a paper version.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:08 PM

Respectfully Submitted by,

Hannah Poplawski

Park Commissioner