

Town of Rowe Park Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
January 9th, 2023  
6:30 PM  
Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Laurie Pike (Park Commissioner), Hannah Poplawski (Park Commissioner), Walter Quist (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 December 14th, 2022 Park Meeting Minutes by roll-call vote: Laurie Pike-yes, Walt Quist- yes, and Hannah Poplawski-yes.

### **Reminder for Upcoming Finance Committee Meeting**

1. The Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, January 19th is for reviewing our budget and providing feedback. The Board of Selectmen will be included in this.
2. Our Special Projects include:
  - a. Beach Sand
  - b. Bathroom Siding
  - c. New Park Truck- currently looking for a Ford or Chevy. The quote we have in the budget is on the high end and allows for wiggle room.

### **Update on Tennis Courts**

1. There will not be a special town meeting until the middle of February so Andrea Woods asked if CP would wait until we figured if we could get the extra funding from the Town.
2. The Project Engineer quoted \$1,000-\$1,500 to oversee the project so that would have to be added to the total price.
3. Laurie went to the Finance Committee who said they could take money out of the Reserve Transfer Fund for now and do a line item transfer in the Spring. The Finance Committee approved the amount we needed plus a contingency fund so there would be a little extra. We will also need to ask for some additional new funding.

### **Update on Current Woodlands Partnership of Northwest MA Grant**

1. All rough cut lumber has been purchased, Sean is just waiting for the lake to freeze so he can bring it over to the trail.
2. Trail markers have not been ordered yet, everyone agreed that the markers should just include what is not allowed on the trails (horseback riding and mountain biking are the big ones). We do not need to include snowmobiles because we already have signage up and the trails are well marked.

- a. Sean received a design for the trail markers but we would like to change the oak leaf that is there. Hannah suggested putting a visual of Todd and Adams Mountains or something similar to the Town Seal. Sean will get some more design options from the company to show this.
- 3. We have 12 kiosks in total that will need signage. Some general information to include would be safety stuff (tick information, no cell coverage- or where you could get it, what to do in an emergency), trail maps are on them now, maybe seasonal messages such as icy conditions. All these points would be individual pieces so if any future updates were required you would not have to update the whole board.
  - a. The kiosk signage needs to be completed by June 30th, 2023.

### **Ideas for Kiosk Posters and Information**

- 1. Ideas suggested for kiosks throughout the park included;
  - a. Lakeview Trail: Blurb about Percy Brown and the history of the Park
  - b. Sabrina Rice Trail: Farming and mining practices (perhaps the Historical Society would like to help with this),
  - c. Dam: Water ecology
  - d. Meadow or Soule Property: Songbirds and/or pollinators
  - e. Davenport Trail: Information about the oaks we planted with a point on climate resilience.
  - f. Other ideas included information on spring flowers and local fauna (we have some cool porcupine sites), vernal pools, monitoring woolly adelgid, interesting features to point out
- 2. It would be great to use pictures of these things from residents. Hunter or Selmi for songbirds, Sue Williams has some great pictures of mosses, etc. We could put something in the Goal Post so people could send their pictures to one of us.

### **Reminder for Upcoming Programs and Grants**

- 1. All programs applied for under the Cultural Council Grant received funding. This includes the Wildlife Tracking, Turtles! and Meet the Mammals with the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, and a Mushroom Walk.
- 2. Hannah will keep an eye on the weather in case we need to reschedule the Wildlife Tracking Program this Saturday. She'll let Janice know by Thursday so she can send out an allcall to residents.
- 3. Laurie had some ideas for the next round of grant applications including managing invasive species, opening the canopy for primary succession and installing a deer fence to prevent browsing on new growth.

4. It was suggested we talk with Alex Barrett to see what his recommendations are since he is so familiar with the Park and its projects.

Minutes for this meeting were approved by roll-call vote on February 6, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted by,

Hannah Poplawski  
Park Commissioner