

Town of Harpswell
Recreation Committee Meeting
April 18, 2016

Attendees: Sue Rich, Don Miskill, Tony Barrett, Rick Meisenbach and David Brooks.

Also present: Gina Perow and Rick Daniels.

A quorum was present when the meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

Meeting Minutes: The March 7, 2016 minutes were approved with corrections [3-0-2].

Old Business:

- **Action item: Devil's Back Trail Plan for east side [Don M.]**
- **Action item: Cliff Trail – Replace broken and rotted bridge boards, build additional bog bridges at Henry's Creek, reflective paint for the blazes, and blaze the cutoff trail reroute.**
- **Action item: Erect roadside sign for the Giant Stairs, and repaint the GS bike rack.**
- **Action item: Make laminated "You are here" maps for the Devil's Back and Cliff Trails.**
- **Action item: Develop an Other Power Driven Mobility Devices [OPDMD] Policy for town trails.**
- **Action item: Permanent maps at trailheads or map cards and QR codes.**
- **Action item: DOGPOT station at Mackerel Cove.**

New Business:

- **Town Meeting** – All of the Recreation Department articles were approved. Gina will begin implementing the projects for improvements at Trufant-Summerton Field.
- **Trail Assessment Work Schedules** – We will send out some date messages so folks can look at their schedules and respond.
- **Devil's Back East Trail** – Loop trail is ~85 percent complete. Still need to:
 - Complete the loop trail rough-cut, then clean cut the entire loop.
 - Have to decide on entrance trails from the parking lot, one or two.
 - Will need some side-hill work done too.
 - Need to flag and cut in two cutoff trails.
 - Identify trail names and submit signs request.
 - Blaze the trails.
 - GPS the new trail for the Harpswell Guide Update.
 - Install the trail signs.
- **Harpswell Hiking Challenge:**
 - June 4th & 5th.
 - Gina will work on sponsors. 80 adult and 20 kids t-shirts.
 - Need a press release then Don will distribute.
 - Registration form and web site update.
 - Get an updated restaurant list for handout.
 - The eight trails are: Giant Stairs, Devil's Back – East, Houghton-Graves, Cliff Trail, Skolfield Preserve, Widgeon Cove, Mitchell Field, and Curtis Farm Preserve.
- **Harpswell Tailgate and Recreate at Mitchell Field:**
 - July 16, 2016, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and Bean Supper. Rain date would be the next day, Sunday.
 - Need to advertise the event.
 - Pick 4-5 local vendors.
 - Working group meeting on May 9th, time is TBD.
 - Check on Harpswell Community Television and Radio broadcast.
 - Scavenger hunt and family focused activities.

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- Music, Fred Cantu & band and Charles Bernier.
- Check with Tom Allen to write an article for us.
- How do we incorporate artists in the event, not a sales focus but hands-on for the attendees.
- **Mitchell Field Update:**
 - All of the warrant articles were approved. Now developing a plan to execute so we can get to the next town meeting with concrete proposals and costs. Town Planner has presented a document outlining the seven critical elements to be addressed.
 - Run by the Bay on April 30th @ 10:00 am.
 - Don is attending the HHLT Family Outing Planning meetings to insure coordination and avoid schedule conflicts for events. They have two requests. Can we camp overnight and can we have a fire. Don is getting them the answers.
 - RFP has gone out for pump house removal.
 - Don has forwarded photos of the pier pilings taken on one of the strong low tide days. There has been significant deterioration in their structural integrity.
 - We are looking at the Admin Building as there are several requests to use it and parking is insufficient if all three elements mature, HCA Arts space, West Harpswell Library and beach use.
 - The Water Tower Task Force has been established. Five members with Ellie Multer as chair and two alternates.
- **Harpswell Invasive Plants Partnership (HIPP):**
 - This is a joint group with representatives from the town, Harpswell Heritage Land Trust and the Harpswell Garden Club. Its goal is to develop a coordinated plan for public and private properties to control and mitigate invasive plants in Harpswell. They have a two-pronged effort. First, to identify IP's here in Harpswell and develop plans to control them. Second, to develop an education program for all citizens to use in controlling IP's on their own property.
 - Don has been attending for the Mitchell Field and Recreation Committees. There are reps from Conservation Commission and Town Lands too. Don briefed the Town Lands Committee, as their rep was not at the last HIPP meeting.
 - The goal of the education component is twofold: to create a web site that everyone can reference for ID'ing and controlling IP's, and to request assistance from the HIPP group. It will be the central point that the town, HHLT and Garden Club web pages can link to so we have one central clearinghouse for information.
 - Mitchell Field, Johnson Field and Houghton Graves are the three eradication and control test sites. A survey was conducted last summer of several sites and road shoulders to identify IP's. Those results were recorded and tabulated on an interactive state web site. This year the group will conduct some preliminary control and eradication projects at the above-mentioned sites.
 - This is a long-term project that will take a sustained commitment to really work.
- **Trufant-Summerton Field Capital Improvements** – Gina wants to get started right away.
 - There are several trees she would like to have removed for more parking. Don will evaluate.
 - New Batting Cage.
 - Field upgrades.
 - New scoreboards.
 - Signs
 - Playground equipment
 - New bleachers.
 - Garage upgrades.
 - General cleanup of the site.
- **Kiosks** – Dave and Don will begin shortly to get the kiosk at Mitchell Field ready for installation.

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- **Graveyard Point Land Acquisition** – The town is acquiring a small but strategically located parcel at the water’s edge adjacent to the Graveyard Point boat landing. The current owners do not want to pay the taxes. It needs to be cleaned up but will provide some critically needed parking which will make the site much more user friendly. Town Lands Committee conducted a site visit on April 5th.
- **Action items Review** – No changes.

Handouts:

- None.

Next Meeting:

- Recreation Committee meeting on May 2nd, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Town Office.
- Recreation Event Planning Work Shop on May 9th, time is TBD at the Town Office.
- NOTE – The Recreation Committee does not meet in the summer months.
- **Harpswell Hiking Challenge** on June 4th & 5th, information booth at the Town Office.
- **Harpswell Tailgate & Recreate at Mitchell Field** on July 16th, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.
- Recreation Committee meeting on September 5th, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Town Office
- Recreation Committee meeting on October 3rd, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Town Office.

The Recreation Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Don Miskill, Secretary