

Town of Harpswell  
Recreation Committee Meeting  
September 8, 2015

**Attendees:** Sue Rich, Don Miskill, Ray Sohl, Tony Barrett, Rick Meisenbach, Bill Muldoon and David Brooks.

Also present: Gina Perow and Rick Daniels.

**A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.**

**Meeting Minutes:** The May 4, 2015 minutes were approved as written [5-0-0].

**Old Business:**

- **Action item: Devil’s Back Trail Plan for east side [Don M.]**
- Action item: Devil’s Back – Install bike rack and install DOGPOT stand.
- **Action item: Cliff Trail – Replace broken and rotted bridge boards, build additional bog bridges at Henry’s Creek, erect direction sign, blaze the cutoff trail reroute, and cut in the new reroute just south of Strawberry Creek.**
- Action item: **Erect roadside signs for Devil’s Back Trail Area, Cliff Trail and the Giant Stairs.**
- **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: Update *The Harpswell Guide* and develop an associated pocket card.

**New Business:**

- **Town Event at Mitchell Field** – Rick Daniels presented a tasking for the Recreation Director and committee. The Board of Selectmen would like to have a town-sponsored event at Mitchell Field to celebrate the town, what and who we are.
  - While similar to the old Harpswell Festivals, it would be less about outside vendors. The festival was a great event but involved lots of people, time and money.
  - They are taking ideas. It would be town-wide and involve all elements of the field itself, the bandstand, fun run, scavenger hunt, boat parade, kayak race, mini-triathlon, fireworks (?), horseshoes, etc.
  - Can we offer to issue fishing licenses at the event?
  - Would like input as to when it should be scheduled sometime next year: town birthday, summer kickoff, July 4<sup>th</sup>. We already have a trails day event and summer swim to work around. How long should the event be, all day, 4 hours (?). Should we tie it with a Bean Supper event?
- **Selectman Representation for Recreation** – Rick Daniels will switch with Kevin Johnson.
- **Promoting Harpswell Recreation (Power Point Presentation):**
  - The new edition of the *Harpswell Guide to Outdoor Recreation* was printed (2000 copies) and we are almost out.
  - Gina designed and printed 5000 pocket cards with a scan-ready QR Code that uploads the booklet on your smart phone. They have been widely distributed to area businesses and are well received.
  - Gina has redesigned the Harpswell Recreation Department logo and printed stickers. She has new “volunteer” t-shirts coming.
  - She’s made extensive updates to the Recreation Department web site, adding individual sports program web pages, trail pages with maps & photos, and links for boat landings and the guide including interactive Google Map pages.

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- **Summer Programs Review** – Reviewed, Camp Harpswell, Summer Swim, Abbot Fletcher Sailing School and Kayaking for Kids. Gina is reviewing state laws governing day camp operations.
  - **Fall Programs** – Shotokan Karate, Field Hockey, Pee Wee Soccer, Harpswell Harriers and Community Swim.
  - **2016 Budget Request** – Gina doesn't have all the expenditure figures from this year yet. She is looking at increases for baseball to purchase equipment (\$1-2K), increase guidebook printing to 3K books, salary increase for Gina at 25 – 30 hours (\$31K).
  - **5 year Capital Plan for T/S Field** – Need an estimate to repair the fence, swings for younger kids behind the field, batting cage, Snack Shack rehab, garage repairs and bog mitigation (\$20 – 40K).
  - **Roadside Trail Signs** – Tremendous positive feedback on the quality of the signs. Immediate increase in people using the Devil's Back and Cliff Trails. Parking lots at both sites are packed.
  - **Harpswell Family Outings event @ Mitchell Field on September 26, 12 – 2 PM.**
  - **Town Office Kiosk** – Don is working with the Mitchell Field Committee on a common kiosk design for both Rec and MF. We need to think about where the town office kiosk should be placed.
  - **Mitchell Field Update** – The MF Committee is moving forward with the boat launch and pier disposition issues. There is a workshop with the BoS on Sept 24 @ 4:00 PM. We have replaced all the signs at MF with signs in the Royal Blue w/white lettering style. Positive feedback from folks at the field. The BoS are reviewing MF Rules as they relate to firearm carry laws. Made up user-friendly "Please don't Park on the Grass" windshield cards. The Harpswell Coastal Academy and Harpswell Library are making a presentation to the BoS for proposed uses of the Administrative building.
  - **Devil's Back East Trail** – Don and Gina walked the east side. Plenty of land for a trail. Don will coordinate with others for a walk to flag a proposed route. Aim for National Trails Day.
  - **Giant Stairs Bike Rack** – Needs painting.
  - **DogPot at Mackerel Cove** – Don asked to revisit the "No Station" vote from last month based on a conversation he had with Terri to address the specific concern about trash. He proposed installing the small pole that comes with the station as a test to see if the trash concern is valid. It can easily be removed if that happens and made a motion that was approved [6-0-0].
- Motion: That the Recreation Committee approves a test installation of a DogPot station at Mackerel Cove to evaluate whether or not trash volume left at the station becomes a significant problem. If that happens, the station will be removed.**
- **Action items Review** – Devil's Back Bicycles rack and DOG POT pole are up. Reroute has been cut in on the Cliff Trail. Roadside signs are up for Cliff Trail and Devil's Back. New Outdoor Recreation booklet and pocket card are in print.

**Handouts:**

- Recreation Director Update dated September 8, 2015 (Power Point, available via email).

**Next Meeting:**

- Recreation Committee meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Town Office.
- Recreation Committee meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Town Office.
- Recreation Committee meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Town Office.

**The Recreation Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM**

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Miskill, Secretary