

Town of Harpswell
Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2023 - 7:00pm

Members in Attendance: David Brooks, Tom Carr, Gabe Coulon, Kevin Hunt, Don Miskill, Jeanie Rubio, and Rick Rumba.

Also in Attendance: Tom Mahoney, Acting Programs Coordinator; and Jane Covey, Selectman

A quorum of Committee Members was present when the meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

1. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:

After a brief discussion, one minor correction was noted. ***A motion was made and seconded to accept the DRAFT April 17, 2023 meeting minutes with the corrections noted. The minutes were unanimously accepted and approved as amended.*** The approved FINAL April 17, 2023 Committee meeting minutes will be forwarded to the Committee.

2. Things to Celebrate:

We all are happy that all our spring programs are off to a successful start!

3. Harpswell Hiking Challenge:

The 2023 Harpswell Hiking Challenge is scheduled to take place on June 3 and 4, 2023. Tom Mahoney handed out a draft of the sticker sheet and passed around a signup sheet to schedule table workers on both Saturday and Sunday. We also briefly discussed where the sticker boxes will be located on each route, and members volunteered to install all the sticker boxes on the Friday before the Challenge.

4. Community Garden Plot for Pumpkins:

At our last meeting we agreed to try to grow our own pumpkins for this years' Fall Craft and Carve Event at Trufant Summerton field. Tom Mahoney arranged to have 2 plots at the Community Garden at Mitchell Field dedicated for us to grow the pumpkins and wanted to recruit several volunteers to assist in preparing the garden beds, planting seeds, and conduct watering over the summer. Several members agreed to meet at the Community Garden on Thursday, May 18 at 1:30 pm to work on weeding and preparing the seed beds.

5. Cliff Trail Workday Update:

Tom Carr reported that last Friday several volunteers worked to repair several washouts and problem areas along the accessible portion of the Cliff Trail. He reported that we were able to borrow the lawn tractor and towable garden cart from the Community Garden to haul stone and cover material to the problem areas without damaging the trail bed. This saved a huge amount of time and effort that would have been needed if the material needed to be moved only with wheelbarrows. After a brief discussion, we agreed that the Committee should send a note to the Community Garden thanking them for the use of the tractor. Tom Mahoney agreed to write the note and send it to the Community Garden.

On another note, two hikers reported that they got quite twisted around hiking the Cliff Trail recently and suggested that the area near the old fairy house zone by the cliff could use some extra blazes and/or signage. Tom and David agreed to re-blaze that area of the trail and install some new signs.

6. Lobster Boat Race Update:

Don reported that he attended the Lobster Boat Race Committee meeting earlier this evening. The race will be held off of Mitchell Field on Sunday July 30 (rain date August 6) from 10am to 3pm. They expect to have 3 food trucks present. They will work with Don on a parking plan and have volunteers to park cars for the event. They also plan to have extra porta-potties installed for the event.

7. Harpswell Aging at Home (HAH) Update:

Jeanie reported that she attended a recent HAH meeting. They discussed the possibility of adding new recreation opportunities for older adults at Trufant/Summerton field in the future. Some of the suggestions discussed included shuffleboard, croquette, bocce, pickleball, tennis, an exercise course, and some

wheelchair/walker accessible activities. Jeannie also mentioned an article entitled “Why communities should be designing parks for older adults” that she suggested we read. Don mentioned that she has the article electronically and will forward it to the committee members.

8. Youth Mental Health Program/Workgroup:

Jane mentioned that the Harpswell Youth Mental Health Workgroup is currently on hold until the fall due to current time constraints. The goal of the workgroup is to work with the Maine Resiliency Building Network to identify tools to facilitate a program to empower and support youth in the Harpswell community.

9. Long Term Planning:

The committee decided to table this agenda item until Gina and Kayla are back.

10. Other:

- a. **Mitchell Field:** Don mentioned that the Mitchell Field Committee is moving forward on the modified dock and boat launch project that is less costly but still meets the requirements of the funding grant. There may be an issue with eel grass that may further delay the project. The hope is to complete the project by next year before the grant expires. Don also mentioned that they are expecting heavy use this summer. There are many events currently scheduled and there is concern about overcrowding at some events including some of the more popular bandstand concerts.
- b. **Bleacher Seats for Trufant/Summerton Field:** Tom reported that the bleacher benches for Trufant/Summerton Field have been delivered, and we need volunteers to move them, assemble them, and set them up. It was agreed that volunteers will meet at Trufant/Summerton on Saturday morning at 10:30 to get the bleachers installed.
- c. **Memorial Bench Policy:** Jane mentioned that there have been many requests to donate memorial benches at different areas of town. The Town Lands Committee is working to establish a policy for donating and locating such memorials. Jane suggested that the Committee compile a list of possible locations where benches might be useful and submit it to the Town Lands Committee. We will put this item on the agenda for our next meeting to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm

Next Meetings: June 12, 2023 @ 7:00pm at the Town Office

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Rumba, Secretary