

Town of Harpswell
Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2021, 7:00pm

Members in Attendance: David Brooks, Tom Carr, Don Miskill, Susan Rich, Rick Rumba

Also in Attendance: Gina Perow, Recreation Director; Jane Covey, Selectman

A quorum of Committee Members was present when the meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

Meeting Minutes: ***The DRAFT minutes for the March 29, 2021 Committee meetings were accepted and approved as written.*** The approved FINAL March 2021 Committee meeting minutes will be forwarded to the Committee.

1. Cliff Trail Rehab and RTP Grant Update:

- a. ***Fundraising:*** Gina reported that she sent out fundraising postcards and we received donations in excess of our goal. In addition, she also reported that Crooker Construction has continued to donate materials and trucking for the trail bed construction; and CMP donated \$15,000. Gina will provide a more detailed update at our next meeting.
- b. ***Trail Construction Progress:*** David and Tom reported that MCC is behind schedule in completing the trail construction project due in part to a staffing shortage and MCC equipment breakdowns. As a result, the town has stepped up and rented a small excavator for MCC to use to clear the trail bed and move materials for the past 3 months. This has helped speed things up considerably, but they are still well behind schedule. MCC suggested that the grant be extended until next year in order to finish the trail work, but this is considered unacceptable to the town since it would require that the trail remain closed to foot traffic through the winter and spring. After some discussion, it was agreed that MCC would divert additional workers from other projects to complete the Cliff Trail work this Fall. The Committee discussed scheduling a volunteer work day on Saturday September 18 from 9am to noon to assist in clearing brush, roots and debris from the sides of the trail. David will send a request out via email to volunteers that participated in the spring volunteer event, and Don will send a request out to Mitchell Field volunteers. David also reported that there may still be a need to the town to purchase specialized trail topping material.
- c. ***Recycling Center Construction:*** David also reported that a crew of volunteers has recently re-routed the Cliff Trail around the Recycling Center in order to keep hikers away from construction activities during the Recycling Center's on-going construction project.

2. Summer and Fall Programs Update:

Gina reported that the Recreation Departments' programs this past summer were limited to the Kids Kayak Camp held in conjunction with H2Outfitters. There were 7 children that participated.

The Fall programs are beginning this month. The Harpswell Harriers X-Country running program started today, September 13, and the Pee Wee Soccer Program begins in Friday, September 17. Registration for the Ultimate Frisbee and Team Handball programs are still low, and may be cancelled if no more participants register. Finally, there will be no Family Swim again this year at Bowdoin College due to the College's current Covid-19 policies.

3. Mitchell Field Update:

- a. ***Running Tide:*** Don reported that Running Tide is interested in leasing 3 more acres at Mitchell Field. The Mitchell Field Committee is recommending a change in the configuration of the business district on better accommodate the needs of the town and those of our business partners.

- b. **Dock and Boat Launch:** The Mitchell Field Committee is continuing to work to re-submit the grant application as an Amendment in order to complete a modified dock and boat launch project at Mitchell Field that is less costly but still meets the requirements of the funding grant.
- c. **Cell Tower:** The new Cell Tower at Mitchell field is currently under construction. The tower itself should be completed by October, and the cell service providers will then begin installing their equipment.
- d. **New Interpretive Trail:** The Mitchell Field Committee is in the process of planning a new interpretive trail in the upper meadow. The trail will consist of mowing the trail only, so there will be no construction costs to the town.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Next Meeting: November 1, 2021 @ 7:00pm at the Town Office

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Rumba, Secretary