

Town of Harpswell
Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2024 – 7:00pm

Members in Attendance: David Brooks, Tom Carr, Gabe Coulon, Scott Gill, Don Miskill, Rick Rumba and Mark Weaver

Also in Attendance: Tom Mahoney (Programs Assistant), and Jane Covey (Selectman), Mary Coombs, Margaret McIntire and Melinda Richter.

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

1. Playground Proposal for Trufant/Summerton Field:

This special meeting was held to hear from residents who are interested in constructing a playground at Trufant/Summerton Athletic Field. Mary Coombs explained that she had heard from town residents that there is currently no playground in Harpswell for children. The only playground equipment is at the Community School, but it is only accessible for children who attend the school during school hours. In addition, the town athletic facility at Trufant/Summerton Field currently hosts youth team sports (baseball, softball, T-ball and soccer), but there is nothing available at the field to keep siblings of team players occupied during games and practices. As a result, Mary said that she had assembled a team of local residents to investigate the possibility of raising funds and building a playground at Trufant/Summerton. The group has already spoken with the Harpswell Select Board as well as with Gina Caldwell and received positive responses. They suggested the next step would be to seek approval from the Recreation Committee, and if approved work with the Committee to determine an appropriate location at the Trufant/Summerton before taking further steps which include coming up with a design, raising funds, and seeking final approval at Town Meeting.

The Committee was supportive of the idea, and there was some discussion about the most appropriate areas on the property to locate a playground. After some discussion, ***A motion was made and seconded to allow the group to begin planning, designing and raising funds to construct a playground at Trufant/Summerton Field. The Motion was unanimously accepted and approved.***

The Committee also made arrangements to meet with members of the group at Trufant/Summerton on Thursday November 21, 2024, at 9:30 am to identify an appropriate location to design and construct the playground.

2. Recreation Director:

Tom Mahoney reported that Gina Caldwell has resigned from her position as Director of Recreation and Community Services effective November 8, 2024. Gina has taken a new position with the Maine Department of Transportation. The Town is currently seeking candidates to fill the position, and they are hoping to have a new Director in place by early next year.

3. Other:

- Cliff Trail Repairs – David Brooks reported that repairs to the Cliff Trail caused by damage from last winter’s storms have been completed by Jim McPherson this week. The repairs were paid for using money provided by FEMA.

- Cliff Trail Re-Route – Tom Carr reported that a re-route of the portion of the Cliff Trail near the cliff where the accident involving a person who fell from the edge has been flagged to avoid the potentially dangerous area. The new route will involve extensive trail work that will most likely be started in the spring.
- Mitchell Field – Don reported that the Bond Article for the Boat Ramp at Mitchell Field was approved by voters at last week’s elections. The construction plan is now moving forward with an estimated completion during the Spring of 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm

Next Meetings: March 10, 2025 @ 6:00pm at the Town Office

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Rumba, Secretary