

Town of Harpswell
Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 09, 2021, 7:00pm (via ZOOM)

Members in Attendance: Tony Barrett, David Brooks, Tom Carr, Don Miskill, Susan Rich, Jeanie Rubio, Rick Rumba

Also in Attendance: Gina Perow, Recreation Director; Kayla Matthews, Programs Assistant; Mary Lee Fowler, Harpswell resident

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

Meeting Minutes: *The DRAFT minutes for the November 02, 2020 Committee meetings were accepted and approved as written.* The approved FINAL November 2020 Committee meeting minutes will be forwarded to the Committee.

Old Business:

1. **Final Follow-up on Dog Leash Rules:** Kayla provided an update on the Town Canine Taskforce. The Taskforce recently met with the Select Board, and the following rules were adopted on a trial basis:
 - Cliff Trail: Dogs on-leash from 10 am - 4 pm. Off-leash and under owner control at other times.
 - Devil's Back Trail Area: Dogs on-leash from 10 am - 4 pm. Off-leash and under owner control at other times.
 - Giant's Stairs: Dogs on-leash at all times.
 - Mackerel Cove: Dogs must be under owner control at all times.
 - Mitchell Field: Dogs on-leash from 10 am - 4 pm. Off-leash and under owner control at other times. (also, MF North Beach: No dogs allowed. South Beach: Dogs can be off leash to swim during 10-4 leashing hours).

Signs explaining the rules will soon be placed on the dog pot posts at Mitchell Field. In addition, a new brochure has been created and will be made available at Mitchell Field and other locations.

2. **Cliff Trail Rehab and RTP Grant Update:** Tony reported that the recent price increase for pressure treated lumber necessary for trail bridge construction was still a problem, but fortunately David was able to negotiate the purchase of all of the PT lumber from Hancock Lumber for a price which is only about 8% above that originally budgeted. David also arranged to store the lumber indoors at the Recycling Center to facilitate drying. The lumber is scheduled to be delivered on Friday to the Recycling Center, and David asked for a contingent of volunteers to help unload, stack and sticker the lumber on Friday after it arrives. Several Committee members agreed to assist. Tony also reported that MCC is almost done with the hiring process, and bridge construction is currently scheduled to take place between April 26 and May 14, 2021. Sue and Tony have offered to house the team leader trainees at their properties during May. However, we still need camping space with restroom and shower availability for the 6-person team for June through September. Finally, Tony initiated a discussion of possible options to raise additional funds to support the Cliff Trail Project costs not covered by the grant and town matching funds. After some discussion, it was agreed that we will investigate getting some publicity in local newspapers and perhaps on Harpswell Community Television to publicize the benefits of the project and encourage donations.

New Business:

1. **Carbon Cash Back Presentation:** Tony and Mary Lee Fowler made a presentation to the Committee discussing the impact of carbon emissions on climate disruption and air pollution; and the benefits of a novel approach to reduce these impacts which is called a carbon fee and dividend, or carbon cash-back system. This program works by charging fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and then refunding the money collected directly to residents. Tony explained that enacting a national carbon cash-back program would decrease long-term dependence on fossil-fuels and aid in the economic transition of energy consumers to less polluting fuels. Tony then explained that Mary Lee is proposing to the Board of Selectmen that an Article be placed on the 2021 Harpswell Town Warrant asking voters to support a Resolution to encourage Harpswell's State Legislators, our Congressional Delegation, the Maine Governor,

and the President of the United States to enact such a program. As such they asked the Committee if we would vote to support placing the Article on the Town's 2021 Warrant.

A motion was made to support placing an Article on the 2021 Harpswell Town Warrant encouraging our State and Federal elected representatives to enact a Carbon Fee and Dividend system as one approach to addressing climate pollution. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

2. **Post COVID Adult Programming:** Jeanie mentioned that she is hoping that the Recreation Department would be willing to plan some new adult recreation programming with the Committee's input as the Covid 19 restrictions begin to wind down. The Committee members present all agreed and a few ideas were discussed. Gina suggested that the Committee members forward any and all ideas for new adult recreation programs to her, and that we will have a further discussion at our next meeting.
3. **Other: Mitchell Field Update:** Don reported that the Mitchell Field Committee is working on plans to redesign the layout of the Business Zone in order to accommodate public parking and septic/well installation in the event that the Administration Building is rehabilitated for future public use. The Committee is also working on developing a modified boat ramp and dock plan that is less costly but still meets the requirements of the funding grant. Don also reported that the Committee received two proposals: one for a new trail system in some of the open field areas, and another for a "bump park" for bicycles. In addition, Don reported that Running Tide has offered to donate toward replacing some of the deteriorated picnic tables at Mitchell Field; and finally he reported that the Committee is considering making some changes to the Alcohol Policy at Mitchell Field.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Next Meeting: April 05, 2021 @ 7:00pm at the Town Office

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Rumba, Secretary