

Town of Harpswell
Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2021, 7:00pm

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; Jane Covey, Selectman

A quorum of Committee Members was present when the meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

Meeting Minutes: ***The DRAFT minutes for the February 09, 2021 Committee meetings were accepted and approved as written.*** The approved FINAL February 2021 Committee meeting minutes will be forwarded to the Committee.

Old Business:

1. **Cliff Trail Rehab and RTP Grant Update:** Tony provided the following information and discussion of progress on the Cliff Trail Rehab Project:
 - a. **Phase I – Bridge Construction:** Phase I is scheduled to begin April 28, 2021, and be completed by May 28, 2021.
 - David will be picking up the list of needed hardware soon. Rick & Don suggested using Mitchell Field fence posts. They will secure a sample post for David to evaluate.
 - Tony will be picking up erosion control materials before 4/15. He will determine if Crooker/Labbe will be making in-kind donations. If not, will order needed rip-rap and gravel.
 - Bridge lumber will be staged behind town office and at Navigator Lane 4/28 or 4/29. Tony will advise adjacent landowner and talk to Chuck Perow about use of pick-up and trailer if needed to transport.
 - Phase I housing for the 4 to 8 people will be provided by Tony & Sue.
 - Bridge lumber will be hand-carried Saturday, May 1 (Sunday weather day) @ 9:00 AM. David suggested contacting Boy Scouts. Tony will talk to Donette as well as neighbors to help.
 - Tony will ask the selectmen at their next meeting for permission to cordon off about 6 parking spots at the back of the town office parking lot for temporary storage of gravel and other required materials. After receiving approval, tape and cones will be put up in the back of the town office parking lot to mark the location and allow for Jersey barrier set up and material delivery.
 - There was a discussion about temporarily closing the portion of the Cliff Trail that will be under construction and re-routing hikers to begin and end at the trail entrance near the Recycling Center and utilizing the cut-off trail to provide a partial loop hike. After some discussion, ***A motion was made to close the portion of the trail under construction during Phase II, and install signage to notify and direct hikers. The motion was seconded and approved.*** Gina agreed to prepare and install signage to notify trail users of construction and temporary trail re-route by 5/1.
 - b. **Phase II – Trail Bed Construction:** Phase II is scheduled to be conducted from June 7 to October 1, 2021.
 - **Camping & Showers:** We will need to provide accommodations (ie – site for camping with toilet and showers) for MCC staff during Phase II. There were a lot of good ideas & suggestions. Tony mentioned that the camping site and showers don't have to be together but it would be desirable. Some suggestions included the following:

- a) Brunswick Landing: Tony will contact Brunswick Parks & Rec about use of showers and possible camping.
- b) Thomas Point Campground: Tony will contact the Mulligans but this option seems unlikely.
- c) HHLT office & adjacent land: Tom will talk to HHLT about outside shower and neighbors about tent sites.
- d) Bowdoin Coastal Studies Center: Gina will contact Bowdoin about camping (maybe even use of new dorms) and shower access.
- e) Trufant-Summerton Field: Gina will pursue possible identifying a camping area at Trufant-Summerton and the use of the bathrooms and kitchen. Rick volunteered donation of an electric hot water heater for hot showers.

Tony, Tom and Gina will report findings by April 10 so that Tony can present options for MCC to consider.

- Use of tractors with front loaders: MCC will require the use of a small tractor with a front-end loader during Phase II, and the plan is to obtain this equipment as part of our In-Kind support. Tony said that he would like to identify several volunteers in town who might potentially donate the use of their tractor with front-end loader for this purpose. The goal is to share the burden by rotating weekly or monthly so donors will not be without the use of their equipment for an extended period of time. Tony has already contacted 4 potential donors, and Don agreed to contact Lee Theberge and Chris Coffin. A list will be finalized by April 10, so that Tony can start working on a schedule.
- c. **Fundraising**: Tony reported that the fundraising goal has been increased to help cover the budget shortfall. In order to address this need, the following will be conducted:
 - Tony will send an update to Patrons by 4/1/2021.
 - Gina will investigate sending a mass mailing request to town taxpayers. Don agreed to donate donation cards and return envelopes. Gina will update a flyer to include with the mailing. If the town agrees to pay the costs, we should aim to have the mailing go out by May 1.
 - Tony agreed to update the info sheet and will send it to Gina. Gina agreed to post the updated info sheet on the Town website by 4/10/2021.
 - Newspaper Article: If the *Harpwell Anchor* is resurrected, a Cliff Trail article and request for donations can be included in the June 1 issue. Tony will prepare an article by 5/1/2021.
 - Cash Drop Box: Gina is working on obtaining and installing a trailhead cash drop box for donations from hikers.
 -

New Business:

1. **Harpwell Guide**: Gina reported that our supply of copies of the *Harpwell Guide to Outdoor Recreation* has been depleted. However, before we commit to printing new copies, she pointed out that re-printing may cause confusion due to the construction and temporary re-route of the Cliff Trail, recent changes to the Town's dog leash rules and other recent changes. As a result, she suggested that the Committee reconsider printing new copies until some of these issues are completed and finalized. Updates on the dog leash rules and Cliff Trail construction could instead be posted on the Town website. After some discussion, the Committee felt that it would be important to have printed copies of the *Harpwell Guide* available during the Cliff Trail construction project in order to divert hikers to other Harpswell Trails, and decided that we should go forward with printing new copies of the *Guide* with revisions noting the temporary construction and closure of the Cliff Trail. Gina will move forward with making the revisions having the normal number of *Guides* printed.
2. **Harpwell Hiking Challenge ((National Trails Day))**: The Harpswell Hiking Challenge is typically held during the weekend that includes National Trails Day, which is the first Saturday in June (this year June 5). After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed that due to the ongoing pandemic, the poor

condition of many of Harpswell's trails due to recent high use, and the Cliff Trail construction project, we will not hold the Harpswell Hiking Challenge this year.

3. Other:

- a. ***Post-COVID Adult Programming:*** The Committee agreed to postpone a discussion of Post-COVID Adult Programming until the next meeting.
- b. ***Mitchell Field Update:*** Don reported that the Mitchell Field Committee has received a request to allow overnight parking for overnight kayak trips. They are also continuing to work on plans to modify the layout of the Business Zone, develop a modified boat ramp and dock plan that is less costly but still meets the requirements of the funding grant; and are continuing to discuss recent proposals for a new trail system in some of the open field areas, a "pump-track" park for bicycles, and proposed changes to the Alcohol Policy at Mitchell Field.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Next Meeting: May 10, 2021 @ 7:00pm at the Town Office

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Rumba, Secretary