

Town of Harpswell
Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 04, 2019, 7:00pm

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

Also in Attendance: Gina Perow, Recreation Director and Kayla Matthews, Programs Assistant

A quorum of Committee Members was present when the meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

Meeting Minutes: The DRAFT minutes for the September 09, 2019 Committee meeting were approved with one correction to the wording of the second motion in New Business, Item #2 to reflect that the Committee voted to ask the Town Budget Committee to primarily utilize Recreation Department carry-over funds to help fund the Cliff Trail upgrade project. The FINAL September 09, 2019 Committee meeting minutes will reflect this change.

Old Business:

- 1. Youth Program Summary:** Kayla provided a detailed report on this past year's youth programs.
 - The Harpswell Harriers Cross-Country program had another very successful season. 22 runners in grades K-5 participated led by coaches Frank Wright, Karen Ela and Kara Douglas. Harpswell's scheduled home meet had to be cancelled due to rain and wet trail conditions. However, Brunswick's trails were unusable, so we hosted their home meet in Harpswell. Special thanks to Don Miskill for trail clean-up!
 - Harpswell's Pee-Wee Soccer Program hosted 14 players (11 local) ages 3-5 led by coach Sierra Gilley and helper Lexie Saxton. Three players from Topsham who were waitlisted for their program also participated. The team met twice per week for 3 weeks. Field and weather conditions cooperated.
 - A new fall Sandlot Baseball program was held this autumn. There were 13 players (11 local) in grades 3-6 led by coaches Warren Graybill and Kevin Hunt. The team met twice each week; one session each week for skills building and another session for game play. The weather was less cooperative with rainy days requiring a few cancellations.
 - A new youth recreation program for Harpswell – Ultimate Frisbee – was held this year. Ten players in grades 3-5 participated led by coach Kayla Matthews with helpers John Kushner and Kelly Nelson. The team met once per week for four weeks at the Harpswell Community School. The program was very well received by parents, and students wanted to keep going for more sessions. As a result, the Recreation Department will probably attempt to host another team in the spring.
- 2. Cliff Trail "You Are Here" Signs:** As discussed during September's meeting, OBIFD Fire Chief, Ben Wallace, suggested that) a numbering system with signs be implemented on the Cliff Trail such that people requiring assistance can better identify their approximate location. Gina developed and presented 5 signs to the Committee, each to be deployed at the trailheads and each trail junction with trail maps depicting their location. She presented the draft signs to the Fire Chief and he agreed that they would be extremely useful in the event that a hiker calls requiring assistance. Gina will get the signs made up permanently for deployment on the Cliff Trail.
- 3. RTP Grant – Fundraising, Carry-Over and Appropriations:** The RTP grant application for the Cliff Trail accessibility improvements was submitted in September. Tony had told Gina that he expects a decision to be made on our application before Thanksgiving. We expect to be able to utilize some of the Recreation Department Carry-over money to fund a good portion of the required matching funds. Gina also suggested that up to \$20,000 of the Recreation Department's "Recreation Special Revenue Fund" be used to help fund the project. Finally, the Committee is still looking for other fundraising options for this project.

New Business:

- 1. Cairns at Giant Stairs:** Gina stated that several people have reported to her that they are noticing more and more cairns are being constructed at Giant Stairs as well as other trails. The issue is that many feel the cairns create an unnatural eyesore and should be discouraged. The Committee discussed options for discouraging their construction including the option of putting up signage. However, in the end the

Committee decided that at this point Committee members and others will patrol the areas where cairns are being constructed and remove them as necessary.

2. **Devil's Back Signage, Potholes and Parking Lot Rocks:** Paul Kittle (OBIFD) reported to Gina that the parking lot potholes and pedestrian road crossing at Devil's Back create unsafe conditions for hikers/pedestrians as well as motorists; and wanted to know if the Committee can do anything to improved safety. In addition, it was noted that during the last 2 wind storms, CMP had moved many of the large rocks that delineate the edges of the parking lot when they came to replace broken poles. After some discussion, Committee members noted that in the past the Committee had approached DOT about putting in a crosswalk at Devil's Back, but State regulations prohibit crosswalks where the speed limit is greater than 35 mph. In addition, Committee members noted there already is signage in place to warn motorists that hikers may be crossing the road, and that every year volunteers cur back the brush on the west side of the road to improve visibility. Finally, the Committee asked Gina to call Dwayne at RA Webber and Sons to move the parking lot rocks back into place and fill the pot holes.
3. **Storm Cleanup Report:** Tom reported that there was quite a bit of tree damage and many blow downs that need to be cleaned up on both the Cliff Trail and Devil's Back Trail after the two recent wind storms. Tom was able to clear most of the trees that were blocking parts of the Cliff Trial, and he as well as Sherry and Ken Ochmig were able to clean up the major blow downs and root balls on the Devil's Back Trails. All is relatively stable now, but additional trail work and possible re-routing may eventually be needed.
4. **2020 Budget:** Gina reported that she will be proposing some minor adjustments to next year's Recreation Department budget. She plans an increase personal vehicle mileage as well as personnel training (since there are now two (rather than one) Recreation Department employees. She also plans to cut back on the Events Budget. She does not expect any changes to the Programs Budget.
5. **RTP Grant Matching Funds:** Gina suggested that we ask the Budget Committee to appropriate up to \$20,000 of the Recreation Department's "Recreation Special Revenue Fund" be used to help fund the Cliff Trail rehab project. ***A motion was made to approve up to \$20,000 from the Recreation Special Revenue Fund to be used toward funding the Cliff Trail project. The motion was seconded and approved (6-0-1 abstention).***
6. **Trufant Summerton Garage Roof:** Gina reported that the roof on the garage at Trufant Summerton Athletic Field is leaking and needs to be replaced. She said that they got an estimate of \$3,900 from Handy Harley to remove the old roof and replace it using architectural shingles. ***A motion was made to approve the use of up to \$4,200 from the Recreation Special Revenue Fund to fund the replacement of the roof of the garage at Trufant Summerton Athletic Field. The motion was seconded and approved (7-0).***
7. **Other Business:**
 - **Mitchell Field Update:** Don reported that the Mitchell Field Master Plan (originally prepared in 2007) has been updated and re-written; and will be presented to the Board of Selectmen at an upcoming meeting. The Master Plan includes several major improvements including: 1) installation of a floating dock and boat ramp; 2) installation of a solar array with the capacity to generate electricity equivalent to that currently used by town government; 3) leasing of site for the installation of a cellular telephone tower (currently 6 interested parties); 4) slight modification of the land designated for the Mitchell Field Business Zone; and finally, establishment of an annual Mitchell Field maintenance budget.
 - **Adult Recreation Programs:** Jeanie suggested that the Committee should look to reinvigorating and improving the town's adult recreation programs in the near future.
 - **Fairy House Zones:** There was some discussion of opportunities to better control the building of fairy houses on the Cliff Trail. This topic will be discussed further at future meetings.

Next Meetings: April 06, 2020 @ 7:00pm and May 04, 2020@ 7:00pm at the Town Office

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Rumba, Secretary