

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2010

5:15pm

Present: Ray Andresen (chair), Molly Mulhern, Jeff Kuller, Morgan Laidlaw (Select Board liaison), Sharon Gilbert, Brian Robinson, David Olivas and Duncan Matlack.

Excused: Beth Ward. **Absent:** Jen Conover.

Ray opened the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Ray pointed out a misspelling of Brian at the end of the minutes from last month. Molly moved to accept the May 5, 2010 meeting minutes as amended, Sharon seconded the motion, and it passed.

Committee Reports

RMRA Redevelopment: The building committee is looking at HVAC options for the new lodge and has nixed oil in favor of wood pellets or propane for fuel. Need to estimate daily/hourly energy usage. Ragged Mountain Foundation has put down \$50,000 deposit on Shawnee Peak chairlift for potential use at Snow Bowl. Final purchase and installation cost would be about \$850,000 compared with well over a million \$ for a new chairlift.

US National Toboggan Championships®: The new open class will be limited to 25 sleds and will be run on Sunday morning. Friday practice runs will be open to contestants and everyone else for a \$5 fee.

Megunticook Rowing: A bridge has been placed over the drainage, but the float and ramp are not in the water yet. The club plans to begin rowing this weekend. In addition, the YMCA has requested permission to store a canoe trailer at Barrett's Cove this summer, and the committee approved the idea.

Pathways/Conservation Commission: Representatives from the Pathways Committee, Conservation Commission, Friends of Megunticook Riverwalk, Parks and Recreation, and Coastal Mountains Land Trust have begun working on plans to create a riverwalk on the Tannery Site easement.

Financial Reports

2010/2011 Budget: Proposed budget to be voted on next week includes reductions in Snow Bowl match from \$20,000 to \$15,000 and capital reserve from \$58,000 to \$20,000. Otherwise, budget requests were approved by Budget Committee and Select Board. About \$35,000 will be available for all Snow Bowl manager requests (jackets, ski boots, toboggan, etc.). Also looking at new ticketing system but cost (up to \$30,000) could be prohibitive.

Snow Bowl Results: Net income of \$36,000 in 2009/2010 is comparable to previous year's \$78,000 because of increased expenditures made in 2009/2010 using prior year's surplus. Did receive insurance payment of \$2,380 for damage caused by fallen tree.

Old Business

Summer Recreation Program: Enrollment is only 25-30 kids so far. If enrollment goal of 55 is not reached, Park-Rec and YMCA will split difference in costs. Low enrollment may be due to school not handing out flyer.

Summer Concerts in the Park: Committee approved staging six concerts whether or not sponsors can be found. Cost of \$200 per concert (or \$1,200 for the series) was deemed a worthwhile public expenditure.

Playground Equipment: Only two people signed up for focus group to research different playground designs for the Snow Bowl. Group discussed advisability of continuing effort at this time, but decided Park-Rec should continue exploring playground possibility. Camden Rotary and Chamber of Commerce might be potential sponsors in addition to West Bay Rotary.

Shared Use Trail: Park-Rec has received a \$35,000 matching grant for creating multi-use trail on Ragged Mountain to join up with planned trail on Coastal Mountains Land Trust property. Looking into possibility of UMaine engineering students developing bridge to straddle toboggan chute.

New Business

Barrett's Cove: The lifeguard stand, which is not used, will be removed and given to the YMCA. The old see-saw and other playground equipment will be removed as a safety precaution.

Strategic Plan: Subject tabled for future discussion.

Snow Bowl Rental Requests: Walker Bros. Circus has requested permission for a one-day, two-show performance in the Snow Bowl parking lot on Thursday, July 8. They will pay a straight rental fee of \$800, cover expenses for police duty, and handle publicity for the event. The circus will not include elephants (which drew a PETA protest when they were last here five years ago). Jeff proposed that we allow them back, and the committee agreed. Jeff also mentioned that a concert promoter from Vermont has approached the Snow Bowl about holding a major outdoor concert and fundraising event in September.

Stolen Chairlift: Someone stole a chairlift chair that was disconnected and on the ground for maintenance. Will cost \$1,000 to \$2,000 to replace if not recovered.

Upcoming Events:

National Trails Day – June 5

Community Yard Sale – June 12

Summer Chairlift Operations – begins June 20

Wednesdays in the Park Concert Series – begins July 7

Next Meeting: No meeting in July. Next meeting will be Wednesday, August 4 at 5:15pm in the Code Office.

Sharon moved that the meeting be adjourned, Duncan seconded, and it passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen.