

Harvard Park and Recreation Commission

Meeting Notes – October 21, 2013

Attendees: Joe Schmidt, BJ Pessia, Pat Nelson, Steve Gordon, Anne Hentz, Doug Thornton, Darren Magan, Alexandra Luck

1. Commission approved Meeting Notes from 10/7
2. Ski Program – Anne Hentz and Doug Thornton provided an update on the upcoming season.
  - Program starts January 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Program Brochures Ready – HES Backpacks and Bromfield Office/Town Hall/General Store
  - Sandwich Board on Common within 2 weeks
  - New bus company – Foxy Travel - \$585/bus – 55 people per bus
  - Website open balances cleared out by Anne this week so registrations can start clean.
3. Pond Road Baseball Field
  - \$7800 quote for upgrade project to improve field and mound areas.
  - BJ told Darren Magan we need 2 more estimates
  - Field budget will be essentially consumed by this project this year
  - No funds available for Ryan Land – usually ~\$2k for ball mix
  - Supplemental project to construct dugouts for \$17,200 was deferred – suggestion was that we submit a comprehensive upgrade plan for HES Softball Field and Pond Rd. Baseball Field in one CPC request. Need quote for both fields for submission.
  - Commission voted 4-0 to approve the \$7800 Pond Rd. Field Upgrade.
  - Darren offered to sponsor a project with the Baseball players to work on the Rail Trail Improvement Program.
4. Beach Finance Summary – Alexandra provided a summary of revenue and costs from the Beach Program this year. Financials are difficult due to the way the season spans 2 annual budget years.
  - Rough estimate of revenue from all sources including canoe/kayaks, slips/moorings and town budget funding is \$51K against expenses of \$87K for net negative operating income of (\$36K).
  - Next year will require a much closer accounting of expenses as well as some fee increases.
  - Some revenue was also lost due to early boat launch fees that went uncollected as well as several slips/moorings that were not sold despite interest from residents.
5. Boat Trailer Storage Analysis – Joe met with Cal Goldsmith – framework of a plan is in progress that involves land along Pond Road on the left as you enter the beach parking area – just before the cutout above the parking lot. Joe recommended that the lead for this project be transferred to Steve Gordon as he has a boat and knows more about the situation.
6. Signage on the Common – Park and Rec is accountable to manage signage approvals on the common – area has gotten out of control this fall with signs that do not conform to the regulations published on the P&R website. Steve Gordon offered to take the lead on managing this.

7. BHRA had requested permission to store coaching equipment in the beach house over the winter. They also wanted to know if they could leave their boat rack in the parking lot over the winter. After discussion, the commission recommended that the rack be dismantled and stored for the winter to avoid interference with truck traffic and potential damage to the rack. The coaches equipment can be stored in the beach house – Pat emailed Holly to let her know and to make sure they unplug the equipment.
8. No update yet from Tim Bragan on town counsel recommendation for liability language in the agreement with BHRA. Town Manager will also be establishing the fee schedule to be assessed for use of the beach by BHRA. Both will be incorporated into new agreement between BHRA and P&R to be approved by Board of Selectmen prior to spring season. The commission discussed the framework of the agreement and what it could/should entail relative to out of town rowers, however guidance from town counsel will define jurisdiction going forward.
9. Pat and Joe will try to meet with Leo Blair to get clarity around the new article that was approved at STM around the role of BoS in the context of managing the beach and related activities.