

**Harvard Parks and Rec
Meeting Notes – 08/05/2013
Bare Hill Pond
7:00 pm**

Commission Members: John Lee, Pat Nelson, BJ Pessia, Joe Schmidt, Anne McWaters
Guests: Many

Survey of beach area – Group walked around the beach and identified a number of issues to take care of.

1. Kayak and canoe storage – need to look at using the area in the woods behind racks 95-102.
2. Loading dock- Parks and Rec is aware that there is an issue with the grade of the dock, but it falls under the DPW and Pond Committee to address. They will do so during the drawdown.
3. Boulders in the parking lot – a few need to be moved for ambulance access and parking spaces
4. BHRA to store 8s in the parking lot during the Fall. They will be placed up against the median. Parks and Rec would like to be notified when DPW is going to put cinder blocks down so that P&R can be present to agree on the placement.

Minutes from 7/26 and 7/08- Not discussed

Longboard event final approval – Aug 17 and 18 approved. BJ to call Mike Gerard about fee.

Eagle Scout project at beach - Not discussed

Fire Dept Bike Event - Not discussed

Beach hours: Joe made a motion to cut guard hours from 11am-5pm starting on August 10 through August 27. Starting Aug 28, hours will go to 2:30-5. Motion seconded and approved. Ali brought up the issue of lifeguard staffing during the triathlon – caused a lot of overtime the week of July 4th - something for Parks and Rec to consider for next year.

BHR Agreement – Joe Schmidt and Pat Nelson presented an agreement between Park and Rec and BHRA. On Mon July 22, Pat and Joe shared an agreement with BHRA. Many areas aligned, while some did not. P&R left the meeting with BHRA agreeing to review the agreement and make recommendations. They met again on July 31 and BHRA had many changes, so there are now two versions of the agreement. Joe stated that he agreed with Pat, but the affiliation with Bromfield is the only reason that BHRA should be allowed the degree of access that they currently have at the beach right now. Pat Hart asserted that the athletes

do receive a varsity letter. There is no agreement in the subcommittee about a number of items (highlighted in yellow between the two documents). The biggest remaining issue of contention is the number of participants. Peter Basille stated that no Harvard students will be denied – every Bromfield student that wants to be a part of the team will be allowed, a stipulation that Parks and Rec instituted years ago. Joe stated that this agreement reflects the Fall and Spring programs. The subcommittee agreed that they can iron out the details and Pat Nelson moved that the subcommittee meet again to iron out the details that differ between the two agreements with the exception of the number of participants. Joe seconded and it was approved. Terry Dewitt informed P&R that a survey was conducted and passed out the results. Terry stated that he believed there is a burden of proof if P&R is planning to take the number of participants down. He sees it as equivalent to swimming lessons and restrictions that are placed on those numbers. Bob O’Shea stated that he will modify the agreement to limit the number of crew boats on the water even during the Fall and Spring. Joe also stated that storage and number of boats is a concern. Pat Nelson stated that she does not have an issue with A/B. Her problem is with the bedlam that is occurring on the beach during the Spring and Fall season. Anne McWaters stated that she had been to the beach during crew practice this past Spring with her two small children and it was chaotic and not safe for little ones. She noted a severe lack of oversight of the students, as the couple of coaches that were down there stood in the parking lot as the kids overtook the beach. Bj Pessia stated that a year and a half ago, she was in support of the expansion to 100, as a trial basis, but now feels that it is too big. Linda Mara stated that “this generation of kids is disrespectful and needs to be managed”. Pam Erdos stated that she thinks Parks and Rec should not take punitive action but rather, teach kids respect. She stated that the library had to deal with a similar problem and they have managed it. One idea proposed by a guest of the meeting was to bring the number down to 90. Joe proposed that Parks and Rec approve the program as it stands (100) today with some management procedures instituted with review of those after the Fall season. John Lee would like to see that Parks and Rec could offer the most recreation programs. BJ would like to target cap the program at 80 and allow those current A/B students to remain and let the number trickle down to 80 with the management piece added by the subcommittee. John moved that we vote on BJs amendment – 3 yeas, 2 nays. Terry still wants to be a part of the subcommittee and iron out the details.

Subcommittee next meeting: Tentative

Long range planning

5 year plan update – Not discussed

CPC requests – Not discussed

Meeting Adjourned: 11:10pm