

Parks and Recreation Meeting
Location: Bromfield Cafeteria
Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Commission Members Present : Wyona Lynch-McWhite, Doug Thornton, Steve Victorson.
Steve Gordon and Elizabeth McGrath not present.
Also in attendance: Harbor Master, Bob O'Shea and Beach Director Alexandra Luck

Beach Operations

Tour de Pond update – Pam Erdos re-arresting Bare Hill Rowing Association gave an update on plans for the event, Allie reminded Pam Erdos to get the key for the kayaks. Steve V. offered to hang posters at Swymfit.

Beach closing updates - Allie gave a review of the Summer operations. Staffing size was optimal. 366 kids signed up for lessons based on the registration system, Bridges and those who paid at the beach. Boating 102 signups. Triathlon went well even with bad weather. July 4th beach games went well on Friday versus the weekend. More people than normal. Bonfire was successful. There was some confusion on the stickers. 579 stickers were sold at the beach. Wyona asked for sticker log sheets.

Payroll increased, but salaries also increased. There was also an evening sticker checker who did a very good job of selling both beach and boat stickers. Allie recommended that as long as we can find a strong individual this position is worth the expense. All equipment in good condition. 3 minor canoe repairs. All ropes are in except for one rope that stays out during the Fall. There are swimmers going out into the middle of the lake without a small boat or any safety equipment. Bob reminded Allie that these individuals could be fined.

Recommendations for next Summer - repair 3 canoe racks. Mulch the area in the trees. A few sails are starting to rip. Perhaps start buying sailing equipment every year. Kayak or paddle board for teaching and/rentals. Recommends that two staff members get trained for teaching. Wyona asked what we normally pay for each year. CPR, lifeguarding and first aid.

One accident. A young boy slipped on the dock and skinned his knee.

We need 4 sailboat moorings. Bob spoke to the type of moorings needed and will take care of this next year.

Wyona - still need to collect roughly 4k in lesson money.

Wyona - The parade put people into overtime and we need to plan this in advance next year.

Wyona - Discussed problems with online registrants from out of town.

Wyona - Discussed end of Summer money for next Summer so that beach funding is clear.

Steve V - Were all of the racks ultimately used. Hard to tell, but yes some racks were not used.

Doug - Can we go back to the people who are not using their racks and ask them whether or not they still want their space? yes.

Bob - If finance is closing the beach, why not keep the beach closed all year? Just put up the sign and run a swimming lesson program? To arbitrarily close the beach with such a large volume of people still using the beach, why even have the beach open at all? If we were willing to leave the beach without guards at the end of the hot Summer, why have guards at all?

Steve V. - Those are good questions and points.

Wyona - Make sure beach budget is clear for next Summer to avoid any questions next Summer.

Bob - Moorings. Successfully put in moorings on the outer field had a setback. The pins which were supposed to be galvanized/stainless were actually not. Bob has some additional expenses to repair these pins. Bob suggested that we combine with the sailboat moorings next year.

Boat Lottery - Wyona: How to make this work better for next year? Bob - suggested that we have the lottery as an event. Make it a fun gathering. Combine with harbor master night. Set some rules - If you do not use your mooring after a month, then give a call and ask why? Make the list and wait list public.

Steve V. can we build more racks?

Bob - Sharing racks: Let registration system put two different prices into the system. This would allow sharing of rack space.

We should stick the stickers on the boats.

Wyona - Did anyone ever check the racks and make sure the kayaks all have stickers?

Bob - Losers previous year get first shot the next year and the remaining slots are given to the winners from the previous year.

Wyona - all good suggestions.

Doug - Registration system cannot handle multiple payments. Also, having someone put stickers on the boats would be challenging.

Bob - Let them all pay online and pick up at town hall.

Pam - Is the main dock moving? Are the rowing backpack shacks okay as placed....Allie said yes. What about trash can emptying? Bob - Suggested asking DPW.

Wyona - The beach is continued being used and the trash should be monitored.

Alli asked that Pam send her an email and she will call DPW.

Field Updates

Track maintenance. Doug thought that Rich was contacting the company. Doug will follow through on this call. Track people questioning the mowing procedures and sprinklers. Still a problem with grass seeds on top of the track and most of the water going on the track.

Steve V. What does the installation company say about this problem? Is this really an independent problem? What is happening elsewhere?

John Lee - it is the combination of a new track installation and grass seeds being left on the surface.

Steve V. What about using a blower to clean the track?

Doug - Can we get the other mower over to the track? Who goes to Rich and tells them to use the other mower?

Wyona - Perhaps it is a BOS and Parks and Recreation combined decision?

Doug - What does it cost to do a treatment?

John Lee - vinegar is cheap. Let's give the kids bottles to spray.

Bob - Move the solution closer to the frontline user. If we have budget money that we can take from DPW, let's give the front line users the money.

Steve V. Good point.

Wyona - That gives the people who are supposed to do the work a break from what is their job.

Track guy - Get a field guy and do not ask the highway department to do this work.

Wyona - We need to help the town understand the importance of proper maintenance.

John Lee - Sit down with the town and DPW and come up with a plan that must happen. Find out why the track cannot be treated correctly.

Wyona - Ask Rich Nota to attend a parks and recreation meeting.

Bob - If field person works for the Parks and Recreation, then they should be told what to do. If this person is not working for parks and recreation, then tell the town to make this happen.

Doug will put together a meeting with DPW in the next two weeks.

Wyona - Porta-potty. HES/Farmers Market split. Porta Potty on the beach will stay until they are all pulled.

John Lee - Handicap ramp for the field house installed that should not take away from funding of the rest of the project. Solar project still happening, but at a slower pace. Project was slowed due to getting all permits.

John Lee - Surfacing of the woodland trail. Received 3 bids on the project and 3 bids on the materials. Vendors chosen and will start 3rd week of September.

Bob reminded everyone that gifts of trails are nice, but who is doing the maintenance? Who will keep the trails in shape?

Jim Lee - Reminder we need to submit another application by the end of Sept. Think in the 50-75k would be enough. Keep within the guidelines so that it does not have to be rebid. Also, what about the shade structure. Doug will again call the company.

Budget

Steve not here.

New Business

Ultimate Frisbee - Can they get their name on the website? Yes. Will work with Doug on Summer questions. Can they get a time on Saturday mornings during the Fall? Will work with Doug on finding a time that works with Soccer.

Meeting Adjourned 9:56PM