HEATH PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
01/12/22 Meeting Minutes

Meeting held remotely via Zoom WEDNESDAY 01/12/2022

Select Board Appointed Committee Members: Kate Peppard (chair), Michael Cucchiara, Jenna Day, Shahid Jalil

Committee Approved Appointments, awaiting Select Board: Bob Dane, Chelsea Jordan-Makely

Guests: Brooke Warrington and Lisa Hayden (New England Forestry Foundation)

1) 7:33 Meeting called to order.
2) REVIEWED/APPROVED MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 2021 – Jenna moves to approve, Mike seconded. Ayes: Mike, Jenna, Kate.
3) FINANCIALS:
   - Annual Budget $250
   - $2,147.18 - stabilization account - access requires town meeting vote.
   - $1,762.46 Recreation Fund
   - Review/Approve Budget for 2023
   - Jenna asked for information on spend from FY21, Kate to get from accountant
   - Kate moved to approve the Heath Parks and Rec Budget FY23 at $250, Shahid seconded.
4) FOREST STEWARDSHIP CLIMATE PLAN PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION (project through New England Forestry Foundation & Mass Audubon grant)
   - Lisa Hayden and Brooke Warrington. Working with Mohawk Woodlands Project, received a grant for climate stewardship programming/planning. Working with towns to develop climate plans.
   - Free technical assistance and funding to enhance forest resilience
   - Developed forest carbon and resiliency practices for southern New England
   - Forester would review Heath’s Forest Stewardship Plan
   - Can apply for additional grants to expand stewardship and implement climate protection practices
   - Mike noted that the Heath Forest Management plan was focused on timber; Parks and Rec is shifting more towards preservation; also noted we will be acquiring an additional 10 acre parcel in the town (Shapiro) forest that have some great tree specimens to preserve
   - Lisa stated that there is funding for two new plans and two upgrades – we can proactively incorporate climate change consideration into Heath’s existing stewardship plan. Up to $5000 for each upgrade. Can continue to work with Michael Barry (who completed the first plan).
   - Mike asked if we can prioritize particular areas of the woodlands – suggested the stand of Hemlock. Chelsea noted we could have a library project around Hemlock pests.
Next steps: make sure all town entities that need to weigh in are on-board. There is no requirement for the town to implement suggestions, and there would be no financial responsibility.

The parcel we would focus on would be

Kate made a motion that the Parks and Rec Committee approve the participation in the grant funded climate stewardship programming/planning to Ayes: Shahid, Mike, Jenna, Kate. Lisa and Brooke to update the letter of intent and send it to Kate. Kate will share with the Select Board and

Brooke and Lisa to follow up with Michael Barry to get him on board.

5) MOHAWK WOODLANDS GRANT PROJECTS (Mike):

- Have opportunity to purchase the additional 10 acres, have spent $2,000 of a $20,000 grant. Mike to follow up with Hilma. Mike willing to complete legal paperwork.
- Connect BHC with M&M through to Rowe; Rowe has purchased an excavator and is willing to do work to connect through to Heath. Mike wants to develop a working group to develop funding sources. Let Mike know if you are interested.
- Outlook Picnic Tables – One at Hager’s outlook, placing another at Lively Outlook
- Trail sign for the kiosk is complete, awaiting installation

5) SWIMMING ACCESS UPDATE (Kate) – NO UPDATE

6) CROSS COUNTRY SKI & FUN RUN UPDATES (Shahid)

- Four season run/hike – start virtual to keep safe; make into a photo/art contest.
  - T-shirt design and entry forms should be ready next week (1/17 – 1/22)
  - Promotion through library, Heath Herald.
  - Entry fee will cover t-shirts and net some funds to Parks and Rec.
  - Shahid to make a list with items he wants help on; would like to have help with a waiver that people could sign to protect the town.
  - Benson Place is willing to host parking for the run
- Shahid will talk to Will Draxler about holding a fun run in conjunction with the fair

7) GYM INVENTORY UPDATE: Lyra to finish the inventory, P&R will establish loaning system

8) TOWN CENTER PARK MAINTENANCE (Jenna – 5 minutes):

- Pickleball (Gordans and Gruens – spring project?) – need tree limbs cut per Bob Dane; suggest a work bee to get it cleaned up; Bob noted that we can get the lines painted for $300. Bob will coordinate this effort.
- Transfer picnic table or benches from trail to Community Hall/Basketball court
- Fence behind basketball court and backboard; trimming trees, etc.

9) ICE SKATING RINK (Mike)

- Update on ice skating rinks – long term project. May want to wrap this into a Heath winter carnival (February 2023?)

10) 9:06 PM Meeting Adjourned – Kate moved to adjourn, Jenna seconded. Ayes: Mike, Jenna, Shahid.