

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.
 - o T-shirt design and entry forms should be ready next week (1/17 – 1/22)
 - o Promotion through library, Heath Herald.
 - o Entry fee will cover t-shirts and net some funds to Parks and Rec.
 - o 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.
 - o 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.