

# HEATH PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 28, 6 to 7 pm

## Minutes

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER at 6:05 pm.

**Present** Members: Michael Cucchiara (Chair), Jenna Day, Shahid

Jalil, Bob Dane; Chelsea Jordan-Makely, Ex-Officio Members: Pat McGahan, & Lyra Johnson

2) REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES: March 2023

- Minutes approved unanimously

3) APPOINT NOTE TAKER/CLERK (3 mins)

- a. Pat McGahan appointed unanimously

4) FINANCIALS (5 min): Annual Appropriation Request

Not discussed

5) MWTP Grant Balances: (10 mins)

The Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership is now the WPNW ( [Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts](#))

In General: MWTP Grants on hand

- MWTP #2 (\$1,000),
- MWTP #3 (\$20,000), (BHC Expansion and Trail Improvements)
  - Spent #3000 to hire Jamie Gay to do some clearing
  - Unanimous vote to hire Jordan Lively as excavator/contractor to replace BHC culvert  
TDC: \$3,500.
- MWTP #4:
  - Unanimous vote to approve purchase of a Snow Groomer for XC skiing for up to \$7,200–  
invoice to the Town.
  - Mike received a quote previously from [snowgroomers.net](#). Bob Dane to get a re-quote  
and follow through with the purchase.
- MWTP #3 (BHC Expansion and Trail Improvements)
  - Spent #3000 to hire Jamie Gay to do some clearing
  - Unanimous vote to hire Jordan Lively as excavator/contractor to replace BHC culvert  
TDC: \$3,500.

6) MWTP Consortium Grant Updates: Partnership with Rowe

**Consortium Grant #1:** Highlands Trail Phase I Schematic Study, \$40,000 grant

FRCOG is the contractor for the map project. P&R has spent \$17,000 of \$40,000, a portion of which covers Hilma's admin expenses. This phase is focused on getting a route over to Rowe from the Regional Thru Trail project. Mike has been working with Hannah Poplawsk from Rowe in getting a list of landowners ( which may involve 4 or 5) for possible trail access.

**Consortium Grant #2:** Highlands Trail Implementation Phase II. Applied for a \$50,000 grant. The deliverable from FRCOG is a route to hand to the Franklin Land Trust (FLT) as a possible partner. P&R would like to hire the land trust to reach out to landowners for access to their land. P&R hopes to apply for another grant for trail easement money for homeowners

There was discussion of the Mahican-Mohawk Trail extensions from existing and proposed trails that go from Deerfield to North Adams. Mike went over possible routes to get into Rowe from the Regional Thru trails. Link provided for current map of trails is at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/mohican-mohawk-trail-map/download>.

7) ONGOING PARKS & REC PROJECTS (REVIEW): (10 mins)

**Fun Run 5k (Shah**

Heath Fair 5k – 17 people show up and there were spectators. People enjoyed it, Chelsea commented that running down the midway was fun and the run is a great addition to the fair. Proposed a hay bale podium and linking the event with church service where there was water, coffee , and donuts (as opposed to Shah’s yogurt which we were assured was good.)

Lessons Learned/ Proposed Next Event

- Need to have water for the event. Earned \$421 with race
- Shah verified the race is definitely planned as an annual event

8) NEW BUSINESS (remaining time) (5mins)

**Pickle Ball Court:** Need a fence or net at the pickle ball court to keep the balls from going into the woods

**Fall Trail Day:** Weekend of October 14/15 was planned. Need to send out mail before the date.

**Set next Meeting Time:** Nov 9, from 6 to 7 pm