

## HEATH PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, November 9, 6 to 7 pm

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

**Present** Members: Michael Cucchiara (Chair), Shahid Jalil, Bob Dane; Chelsea Jordan-Makely, Ex-Officio Member Pat McGahan,

**Absent:** Jenna Day, Ex-Officio Member Lyra Johnson

2) REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES: September 28, 2023

- Minutes approved unanimously

3) FINANCIALS (5 min): Annual Appropriation Request

P & R has about \$5000 in more than one account. Need to submit an appropriation request. Mike to check with Hilma on process for accessing the accounts.

4) Trail Day Proposal

A trail day was scheduled for Monday, Nov 13 starting at 8 am. Mike, Shah, and Bob are planning to attend. Work areas were identified.

5) WPNM (Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts, formerly MTWP) Grant Updates:

In General: WPNM Grants on hand

- WPNM #2 (\$1,000),
- WPNM #3 (\$17,000), (BHC Expansion and Trail Improvements)
  - Jordon Lively paid to replace culverts.
- WPNM #4: (\$15,000), Snow Groomer was purchased for \$7,200. Mike will bring invoices for all purchases to Hilma next week.

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. This phase is focused on getting a route over to Rowe from the Regional Thru Trail project. Project is ongoing.

**Consortium Grant #2:** Highlands Trail Implementation Phase II

The Franklin Land Trust is a possible partner for landowner contact to allow access to private land. They have experience with landowners. P & R is meeting with the FLT via Zoom on November 16 at 11 am. Mike to send out Zoom meeting invitation.

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

- Concern was expressed regarding damage to the trails by an ATV or motorbike. Some discussion on how to mitigate with signs.
- There was a complaint that the Shapiro land was posted as No Hunting. The Conservation Commission controls the land and hunting is allowed. Mike investigated and the person complaining was mistaken.

#### 8) Let's Deck the Halls – Town Common Holiday Spruce up?

- Discussed decorating the common and buildings with wreaths and putting up a tree.
- We need to set a date as to when this will be done. Bob Dane to check with last year's group of folks who decorated.
- Mike suggested making this an annual community event
- Members voted infamously to propose to the Select Board that P&R promote the spruce up.

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

- New Community led initiatives? Any other events? Announcement
  - Ski-a-thon suggested by Shah, Jacobs Rd suggested as a possible site. Mike suggested taking the groomer to the Davenport land which has a nice vista. The BHC (Burnt Hill-Catamount) trail will be groomed for cross country.
  - Pickleball court surface is a little rough. Could use some of P&R money to resurface the court. The split rail fence needs to be replaced and P&R has money left from a grant to do the fence repair.
  - There was more discussion regarding ATVs tearing up some of the trail work. It is believed they are allowed by the Conservation Commission who controls the Shapiro land. Chelsea to check on this with the CC and the Select Board. ATVs are not allowed on Davenport land which was a condition of the sale of the land. Hager's reported they are not able to stop ATVs on their land despite having tried signs.
- Next meeting is set for Thursday, January 18.