

TOWN OF EPSOM
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Webster Park, Epsom, NH
August 11, 2022, 6:00PM

The Parks & Recreation Commission generally meets the second Tuesday of every month to discuss information pertaining to Webster Park and the public swimming area known as Short Falls. The meetings are open to the public and the Commission welcomes public comment at the end of the meeting. If you wish to be put on the agenda for a discussion item or would like to request an appointment to be heard by the Commission, please contact Megan at the Epsom Town Office at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting. All requests for reservations are also handled through the Epsom Town Office.

PRESENT

Gary Perry, Chair
Joe Wysocki, Vice Chair
Cheryl Gilpatrick, Board of Selectmen Representative

Also Present

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary
Galen Riordan, NH Trail Dawgs Snowmobile Club

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Perry called the meeting to order at 6:09PM.

AGENDA REVIEW

Ms. Gilpatrick made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Wysocki seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Appointments:

NH Trail Dawgs Snowmobile Club - Easement

Mr. Wysocki stated at the last meeting the club presented a plan for allowing use of the park as a cut through for the trails.

Mr. Riordan of the NH Trail Dawgs Snowmobile Club, stated the proposal is for landowner permission from the Town to cross the outer barrier of the park in order to connect with some of the Fort Mountain trails. He stated they already have permission from a landowner across Route 28. A map and plans were presented for review by the Commissioners. Mr. Riordan stated they have researched the idea of a floating bridge across the river; they are trying to avoid going along side the road. Mr. Perry stated he doesn't expect the State will allow a bridge across the river in this area. Mr. Riordan stated Fort Mountain Club put in a suspension bridge further upriver. Ms. Gilpatrick asked if a floating bridge is permanent. Mr. Riordan stated it could be removed. Mr. Perry explained FEMA and the State are going to be strict due to the erosion and evulsion issues with the river in this area. He suggested looking into an added lane along the bridge; the bridge

would protect it. Mr. Riordan stated much of the infrastructure is already in place with paths and tracts its just a matter of crossing the river. Mr. Perry stated he wants to see some sort of approval from the State, Homeland Security, and FEMA, before the Town approves the project. He explained the area is low and still shifting and is a designated flood area.

Mr. Riordan stated they are also looking for an area for trailing parking. Ms. Gilpatrick stated that was presented by Mr. Gagne at the last meeting. It was clarified the proposal doesn't specify where the trail will be located, but there will be an agreement to work on the location together. Mr. Wysocki stated the term can also be flexible.

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to bring their concerns along with support of the Snow Dawg trail permission project to the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Gilpatrick suggested the club send a representative to the next Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Girl Scouts – Project

No representative was present.

New Park Ordinances Discussion

Mr. Gilpatrick stated Lieutenant Michaels of the Epsom Police Department reviewed the ordinances and gave some recommendations along with reasonings. The Commissioners reviewed the final draft park ordinance. Ms. Gilpatrick stated she is also working on revising the event application. Edits were discussed for the draft ordinance. She noted the Board of Selectmen have also reviewed the draft.

Share budget update

Mr. Wysocki stated as of the end of July, less than half of the budget has been spent with 53% remaining. Ms. Gilpatrick stated a \$1,000 donation was accepted by the Board of Selectmen from Old Home Weekend Association to the revolving fund for Webster Park.

Review Project List

Mr. Wysocki stated the backstop for the basketball court was completed last month; he stated other projects have been completed as well as painting the gazebo. Ms. Gilpatrick thanked all those who came to help for two weekends in a row.

Mr. Wysocki noted there was a huge spike in the lawn care line item in the budget. Mr. Perry stated extra work was done in preparation for Old Home Weekend; work was also done at Short Falls swimming area. Mr. Perry suggested they look around to see if there is anything else they want done before Old Home Weekend.

Mr. Wysocki suggested they decide on the next bunch of projects such as painting the small pavilion/bandstand, the irrigation trench. Ms. Gilpatrick suggested doing the bandstand when the second coat of paint is done for the gazebo later in the fall.

The Commissioners discussed the installation of the security cameras.

Ms. Gilpatrick stated they are still looking into the PVC whiteboard for the sign.

Mr. Wysocki suggested they put another coat of paint on the green bathroom bunker.

Mr. Perry stated the garage work is planned for the fall.

Mr. Perry stated he has started cleaning and reconditioning the metal of the *MS Mt. Washington* seat backs but the project is going to be long. He explained the process involved with restoration as well as the costs for replacement parts. The cost to rebuild each 4-chair and table unit will be about \$127. Ms. Gilpatrick suggested they look into a grant through the NH Moose Plate Program as those grants are designated for restoration of historical artifacts. The Commissioners agreed with having Ms. Gilpatrick bring this up to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Wysocki will be in touch with Mr. Creech to get more detailed history of the chairs.

□ Discuss upcoming reservations and open/close assignments

The Commissioners reviewed upcoming event registrations and designations were assigned for who would be present to open the parks for the events.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Perry stated he received a quote for having the slide replaced on the playground. Ms. Gilpatrick stated she will submit the quote pictures to the insurance company along with the claim for the sign.

Readiness for Old Home Weekend (Aug 12 - 14)

Ms. Gilpatrick stated the Old Home Weekend Committee has encountered issues with allowing political party representation in the parade and fair; she stated by the time the request came in there was only one booth left and they had to grant the request. She stated this will be an issue that the Board of Selectmen will have to discuss further as well. Ms. Gilpatrick stated they will also need to discuss the issue of political events being allowed at the park. Mr. Wysocki stated the schedule this year was full almost every week.. He also noted it is already addressed in the Reservation Policy and restricts against political events. The Commissioners agreed that any application that is against the Policy or ordinance, needs to have a vote by the Commission.

Chair Perry made a motion to deny the application for Dan Maguire. Mr. Wysocki seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting of July 14, 2022 – Edits were made. **Mr. Wysocki made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Chair Perry seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary