

Town of Rowe
Park Commission Meeting Minutes
Online Zoom Meeting
April 5, 2021
6:30 PM

In Attendance: Laurie Pike (Park Commissioner), Chris "Selmi" Hyytinen (Park Commissioner), Hannah Poplawski (Park Commissioner), and Sean Loomis (Park Manager)
Audience of Citizens: None

Call to Order at 6:31 PM

We are excited to welcome Hannah Poplawski as our newest Park Commissioner. She will be filling out the remainder of an open Park Commission seat.

Old Business:

1. Bids for the new playground are in with the procurement process being handled by FRCOG. There are a few questions to answer before proceeding about compatibility with the Mass General Laws which will need to be researched and resolved so that we may move forward. Unfortunately, we may not be able to complete this project by the start of summer season but the money for the special project will remain available until it is completed.
2. The kiosks which are being funded by a MTWP Grant are in the process of being built and should be delivered soon. The goal is to have them installed late spring and ready for the summer season. There was some discussion on what information should be displayed at the various kiosks. Some suggestions included a trail map, Rules and Regulations that apply to the trail system, information on local flora and fauna, and a board for Trail Users to share what they have observed.
3. There will be two Cultural Council funded programs at the Park this Spring. The first on May 15, 2021 from 7:30 to 10:30 AM will be Birding for Adults with Naturalist, John Green. The second will be Pond Creatures Exploration for Families with Naturalist, Helen Ann Sephton from the Hitchcock Center for the Environment. Both programs have/will be announced in the April and May Goal Posts with a request for advance registration as numbers may be limited due to Covid restrictions. An additional announcement will be added to the school newsletter and a Town-wide call will be requested several days before the program is to take place. The Park Commission wishes to thank the Rowe Cultural Council for extending these programs which were canceled due to Covid restrictions in the spring of 2020.
4. Applications for summer employment are due May 7, 2021 after which interviews will be set up. Sean will contact the YMCA in Greenfield about possible Swim Instructor and Lifeguards. We may need to run an ad in the newspaper as we have no returning lifeguards at this time. Sean will also contact Hannah French on her interest in running a two week recreation program for families again this year. There was some discussion about the other two weeks of the recreation program and whether it can be safely run at this time.

5. Covid-19 protocols for the upcoming summer continue to change as people become vaccinated and so the Park will continue to be in touch with the Rowe Board of Health before deciding what Covid safety measures will need to be followed again this summer. Given that it has not been determined how the park will need to be run this summer to comply with Covid restrictions no decision has been made on whether School of Choice families or Rowe Camp participants will be allowed at the beach area this summer. The Park Commission hopes to make that decision in the near future. For the summer of 2020 the beach and swim area were open to town residents and their guests only to insure safe numbers of participants for enforcing the required strict Covid protocols.

New Business:

1. The next round of Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Grants will be due May 24, 2021. A proposal has been submitted to do four small projects from the Forest Assessment Plan. The projects will include inoculation of ash trees to prevent the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (an invasive species), hemlock monitoring for the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (another invasive and destructive species), the design and layout of an interpretive Old-Growth Trail, and the planting of red and white oak seedlings. The projected cost will be \$15, 185. Laurie will contact Peggy Sloane at FRCOG for help with writing and submitting this grant application.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Laurie Pike

Park Commissioner

April Park Meeting Minutes were approved at the May 3, 2021 Park Meeting by roll-call vote.