

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

In attendance: Laurie Pike (Park Commissioner), Chris "Selmi" Hyytinen (Park Commissioner), Hannah Poplawski (Park Commissioner), and Sean Loomis (Park Manager)

Audience of Citizens: Dan Stephenson joined briefly at 7:40 to ask when the playground structure would be in place.

Called to Order: 6:35 PM

Approval of June Park Meeting Minutes by roll-call vote: Laurie Pike-yes, Chris "Selmi" Hyytinen-yes, and Hannah Poplawski-yes.

Programs and Collaborations

1. A Patterns in Nature Program for children will take place on August 3rd from 10:00 AM until 11:30 AM. Interested participants will be asked to sign-up in advance. We will post a reminder in the Goal Post, on the Rowe School Facebook Page, and print flyers that can be hung up at the town hall and library.
2. We will also be collaborating with the Library to host a Wildlife Tales Program in September that will be available to people of all ages. The Program will be led by the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Dates and times will be determined after further discussion with the Library Director and the Museum.
3. The Library director has commented to Park Commissioners about her idea of installing a free book/loan center at the Park to encourage more townspeople to read and take out books. The Park Commissioners considered some options for the placement of this loan center; we could place it at the top of the driveway of the park in the rock garden where it may get a lot of use from the people driving by and the kids when school is in session, it could be at the park headquarters so people could take out books while they are at the beach, or we could make it mobile so it could be moved around depending on the season. A further discussion will have to occur with the Library Director regarding who is going to build this or if she plans on buying one.

Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership

4. Hannah Poplawski has been appointed by the Select Board to represent the Town of Rowe on the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Committee.

Tennis Courts

5. A discussion was started about the conditions of the tennis courts. Currently, there are many cracks with weeds growing up and equipment that is broken. Research will have to be done to determine what steps we can take to replace the courts and what available funding or grants are available for this. A couple options are to demolish and rebuild with a multipurpose court, demolish and rebuild with only tennis courts, or completely demolish and use the space for an alternative recreation space.

Rules and Regulations

6. Approval of the updated Rules and Regulations by roll-call vote: Laurie Pike-yes, Chris "Selmi" Hyytinen-yes, and Hannah Poplawski-yes. Updates include using the structure and trail system at your own risk with a notice on the Kiosks about this, resident and guest responsibility for personal property, and a minimum age of 12 for kids to be at the park unsupervised. The updated rules and regulations will be posted on the town website.

Manager's Report

7. The Park Crew has been working hard on a trail that will connect the North West View Trail to the White Tail Deer Trail. Root and debris clearing has been done and a sign will be placed on the far end of the connecting trail soon. Another project that is coming up soon is the building of boardwalks on the Beach Trail. ½ of the pressure treated lumber has been purchased for this and the crew will be split into two groups so one group can work on building the boardwalks and the other can continue trail maintenance. The Park Manager will be implementing one week on and one week off for the park staff to maximize work hours for everyone. The Park Manager is looking into purchasing additional radios so all crews at the Park will be in contact with one another. This will increase the ability to communicate and report any cases of emergency between the park workers and the Park Manager.
8. We have an update on Park staff this summer. Instead of 6 park workers there are 4 workers and 2 lifeguards, and 4 workers from the Grasshopper Program. The two park workers who have not started will be contacted by the Park Manager.
9. Reopening the Fitness Center for Rowe residents and guests requires the installation of two air purifiers and a plan to be submitted to the BOH. This includes the maximum number of people allowed in the fitness center at a time, cleaning protocols, and signage that will be posted on equipment to serve as a reminder to clean after use.
10. The Trail Assessment that is being conducted for a plan of improving and enhancing the trail system will be completed by January 1st, 2022.

11. The new playground will take approximately 4 weeks to install. The installation will begin towards the end of September into October to avoid interruptions during the summer season and will be completed by November.
12. To use the boats provided by the park, residents and guests must speak with the lifeguard on duty and sign a waiver. Whenever the boats are taken out, the individual must always have a lifejacket with them.
13. Lifeguard equipment was checked by an EMT volunteer and the Town Nurse. The Park Manager will be purchasing 2 medical kits and will speak with Dennis Annear about rescue boards and backboards, what the protocols are in regards to those two pieces of equipment, and if our lifeguards need to have them.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted by,
Hannah Poplawski
Park Commissioner