

Minutes
Alton Parks and Recreation Commission
June 19, 2007
A.V.A.S. Building, 6:30pm

Members Present: Dave Cumming, William Lionetta, Melissa Wells and Peter Bolster.

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle

Call To Order

Chairman, D. Cumming, called the Meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Approval of Agenda

P. Bolster amended the agenda to include a discussion on Town Property that is not developed but belongs to the Town of Alton under the other category. W. Lionetta made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; motion was seconded by M. Wells and passed.

Approval of Minutes 4-10-07

M. Wells made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 10, 2007 as written. The motion was seconded by W. Lionetta and passed.

Old Business

AYBL Update- The Green Monster Fence is completed and looks excellent. The AYBL did a great job with the construction. The chain link fence section will need to be moved to match up to the fence location. The status of the batting cage and field lighting/electricity was discussed. The Director asked the AYBL to send plans for the field to the Commission/ Town for approval before beginning work on the new concession stand and lighting for night games. The Commission noted that the batting cage should be put up safely and recommended taking the netting down after the ball season.

Town Beach- Snowmobile Parking- P.Bolster reported that the Beach Committee is suggesting that the culvert pipe be extended and that may help solve the concern with parking snowmobiles on the Town Beach. The Commission discussed the concept of parking snowmobiles on the Town Beach and was of the opinion that restaurant users can park on the ice below the wall of the Beach and that the Town Beach should not be used for parking. A compromise was discussed to install a seasonal fence to allow parking on the far side of the Beach, toward the Downing property, while stopping access to the wall and Town Beach portion. This idea may have merit but allowing parking on the Beach will make a mess with the mud and may cause an increase in erosion by disturbing the ground with snowmobiles. The Commission noted the people that want the Beach access also want a place to remove Bob Houses. P. Bolster reported that other areas (private businesses) are available in the Bay to use in the event of an emergency. The Commission stated that tax money went into the improvements of the Town Beach and the Commission would like to see the Beach remain in good condition. K. Troendle noted that an access area from Rte. 28A needs to be available for emergency/maintenance vehicles so that access point should remain available.

Beach Committee Update- Maintenance- K. Troendle reported that the department has installed sand bags and cleans the catch basins on a regular basis to help with the water run off from Bay Hill Road. It was noted after a previous torrential storm that the Town Beach received some erosion because of drainage issues on Bay Hill Road. New material will be added once the drainage issued is corrected. P. Bolster suggested installing

curbing to help block the water run off. K. Troendle reported that the state was contacted and asked to work together with the Town to solve and correct the drainage issue but the state declined to get involved. Milfoil- Lycott Environmental treated the Town Beach and swim dock for milfoil and the swim areas are closed for seven days, it is a thirty-day wait period for drinking and irrigation or until the sample tests indicate it is ok. Signs are posted and the areas are taped off. Harmony Park Roof- The Harmony Park roof will be redone through donations from Brad Hunter and Reuben Wentworth. Culvert Extension: The soil scientist reported that they will attempt to get a permit for the culvert extension but are unsure if the regulations will be met and the permit approved. The Beach Committee is hopeful that because the beach was repaired that maybe the state will allow for additional improvements to expand the useable property and grass area and prevent the washing out of soil into the lake. Signage- The signs for the swim areas were ordered and will be installed when delivered. The Commission suggested having an open drain that is a half pipe in concrete that will allow for the direct flow of water.

5K Road Race- The Meredith Village Savings Bank will be sponsoring the race with a \$700.00 donation. The bank also suggested that they may be able to sponsor half the cost of the long sleeve t-shirts. The Commission discussed the importance of volunteers to help with the race traffic and finish line. M. Wells will help with registration. B. Lionetta will also volunteer.

New Business

Granite Bench- The Commission discussed the request to place a granite bench in the Railroad Square Park by Mr. Lyons. The Commission noted that the benches are beautiful and promote a positive appearance. It was reported that sometimes the benches are vandalized but that is part of doing business and we need to fix them and move on. The Commission approved the placement of a memorial bench at Railroad Square Park that would resemble the size and shape of the existing benches. Also the wording of the bench and location would need to be reviewed/approved by K. Troendle. The Commission advised contacting the Garden Club in regard to Shirley's Garden and the interest of adding additional benches in that location.

Touch A Truck- The Army National Guard will also be participating in the event by bringing a troop carrier and a HUMV. The Fire, Police and Highway Departments will be participating with vehicles. Parks and Recreation will bring the John Deere tractor and will set up an area with sand and the sand digger so children can excavate and play. The Parks and Recreation Department will also hand out refreshments and Frisbees. P. Bolster said he would be available to help at the event.

Canoe Race- The Department is sponsoring the annual race on June 24. Volunteers are needed to help direct traffic and assist at the finish line. The Commission recommended contacting the Rotary Club, Alton Business Association and Boy Scouts for volunteers.

Alton Business Association Meeting- (1) K. Troendle reported that she attended the Alton Business Association (ABA) Meeting and shared information on what the Parks and Recreation Department is doing and our purpose; (2) The ABA is interested in sponsoring events for Old Home Days in the downtown area and will have a list of events in July; (3) Reuben Wentworth asked about the maintenance of the sidewalks in regard to sweeping up the sand— K. Troendle said the sidewalks were swept by the Highway Department already this year but after the heavy rain storm they need to be swept again. He offered to help maintain the sidewalk in front of his store property and noted how much the sidewalks are used and the condition they are in; (4) P. Bolster reported that the Town is working on developing a trail from Ginny Douglas Park to Hannafords Store. There is a 85' right of way, in some spaces it is a 60' right a way and the Town purchased the right of way previously. The Commission discussed the maintenance of the trail and other concerns regarding patrolling, litter, privacy for abutters, etc. P. Bolster said Parks and Recreation would maintain the trail.

Jones Field Expansion- The Water Department said they are open to the idea of expansion of the fields and would like more information once we have something prepared. The Water Department also has maps available to use as a reference.

Community Service Worker- The Alton Police Department found the individual responsible for graffiti vandalism to our parks and this person is working the restitution off at minimum wage, it amounts to 218 hours of service owed to the Town of Alton.

Commission Membership- P. Bolster announced that Brad Smith was appointed by the Board of Selectmen to be a member of the Commission. Mr. Smith is the youth activities director at Camp Adventure and owner of Smith Candies in Alton. K. Troendle said she was approached by Cathy Burke about becoming involved in Parks and Recreation after her retirement.

Staff Training- K. Troendle reported that E. Uhlig attended the Certified Playground Safety Inspector Course ; E. Uhlig and L. Nolan attended a LGC Chainsaw Safety Class; and E. Uhlig, L. Nolan and T. Brooks attended the mandatory car control program driving class.

Depot Street Park- P. Bolster reported that the Park Committee may need assistance with the playground construction.

Capital Improvement Items- K. Troendle asked the Commission to recommend items they believe are needed to improve the efficiency of the department or that the Town is in need of. The Director and Commission suggested long term planning for the purchase of a snow removal machine for the sidewalks and also improvements to the sidewalks. The Commission said it is important for the department to have the proper equipment to do the job of removing the snow.

Sidewalks- P. Bolster reported that the sidewalk fund received an appropriation of \$10,000 this year. Mr. Bolster also said the Beach Committee is interested in connecting the sidewalk from Downings property to Harmony Park.

Adult Softball- The Commission discussed the question from one of the teams about not having a balanced schedule and if the department would be redoing the schedule. The Commission noted the concern of the team but stated that in professional sports all teams in one division do not play each other, it is the luck of the draw and with the limited amount of playing fields something has to give and that is the schedule that was drafted and if the balance was an issue it should have been addressed at one of the three previous meetings. The Commission also noted that this was supposed to be fun and not as competitive and serious and it appears to be becoming. The Commission also noted that all of the games do count, even in cross divisional play so teams should show up and to win the championship teams need to be doing their best. It was the consensus of the Commission to have the schedule remain as presented to the teams.

Geocaching- GPS game. K. Troendle reported that the program is doing great and many people are participating and getting a chance to see some of the wonderful parks, trails and water resources in Town.

Pocket Parks/Town Properties- P. Bolster reported that there is Town owned land (donated parcels, conservation property, seized through back taxes) that is supposed to be available for the public. 2 issues concerning the properties were discussed: (1) advertising the area and letting people know they exist and (2) the property neighbors getting troubled by the Town bringing in/inviting facility users. Echo Point- Uses- picnic tables, benches, lake view- do something with property or sell it; Riley Road Beach- swimming area; D. Cumming stated that he is not in favor of selling Town owned property on the lake. P. Bolster suggested putting forward a nice park system with pieces- like water access, hiking and biking trails, etc. Mr. Bolster

said that Alton doesn't have the infrastructure like other lake front communities and Alton has de-centralized parks. The Commission noted the importance of adequate funding for the maintenance of the park facilities in order to make sure they are clean and safe. P. Bolster suggested that the camps on the lake could work together and perhaps the Town could use the camp facilities in the off season. Mr. Bolster said an ideal park would be Wild Song on Range Road, it is 350 acres and has trails and beaches and is a beautiful park area. P. Bolster offered to lead Sunday afternoon cross country skiing trips as a program. Mr. Bolster suggested setting up times/places on Sunday afternoons at 2:00pm and taking people on a guide led trip.

Adjournment

W. Lionetta made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm; motion was seconded by M. Wells and passed. The next meeting date will be determined by consensus through email.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kellie Troendle, Certified Park and Recreation Professional
Parks and Recreation Director*