

Memorial Beach Advisory Committee

Minutes for meeting February 11, 2016

Attendance:

Diane Mandile, Ray Mullins, Greg Mancini, Paul Brinkley, Robert Fredrickson (Absent without notice), Paul Congdon (Absent, excused)

Meeting called to order by Chairman Diane Mandile at 6:35 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Diane Mandile

Minutes for meeting 1-28-2016 approved unanimous

Diane informed the committee that Deborah Keefe resigned from the committee.

Ray made a motion to table item #3 regarding reorganizing the committee, on the agenda to a later date. Greg seconded the motion. Motion accepted with unanimous vote.

Discussion, Board of Selectman's meeting for 2-22-2016. On the BOS agenda will be a discussion of rates sent to the BOS by our committee. Diane will not be able to attend this meeting. It was decided that Ray will represent our committee at this meeting to answer questions the BOS may have, and to explain our reasoning in coming to the rates we have presented.

Next on the agenda is to discuss the grills. Ray presented pictures of grills to be suggested for use at the beach and suggested ten of the grills be purchased and installed securely to the ground. The grills should be checked periodically throughout the day by beach staff and cleaned when necessary. Greg suggested disposal units for used hot or cold charcoal residue. Ray suggested, to start, that outside grills be prohibited and only grills provided can be used. Diane suggested a shovel be provided at the concession stand to help patrons empty their own ashes after use of a grill. Paul B suggested allowing for propane grills to be brought in providing they are the small table top versions only. Ray suggested only allowing town owned charcoal grills. Greg compared the cleanup of charcoal grills and the propane grills not requiring any cleanup. Diane suggested moving toward the propane grills only once we have more staff to oversee grills. If we end up with a parks director he could make further decisions on the use of grills. Paul B suggested that grills not be restricted to a segregated area. Diane asked for a motion regarding the grills to be presented to the BOS. Greg made a motion to allow patrons to bring in a table top grill, charcoal or propane of only a table top variety. Also to recommend the purchase of hot coal disposal bins. Paul B seconded the motion. Motion accepted with unanimous vote.

Next on the agenda is to discuss picnic tables. Ray submitted a picture of the present tables stacked for winter storage showing 16 tables at least half needing repairs. Ray suggested 20 tables be made available. This past season only about 8-10 tables were used as well as 5 metal anchored tables. All tables need to be secured to the ground so that they cannot be moved with several being confiscated for use by one family. Ray suggested the 20 tables to go along with 10 grills being provided. One grill for each 2 tables. Greg, suggested possibly providing metal tables as opposed to wood tables if table top grills are allowed at some point. Diane suggested also that metal tables are less likely to need repairs. Diane suggested that they should be spread out throughout the entire area but not on the sandy beach areas. Some tables beyond the swing sets in the shade and possibly out onto the peninsula area. Diane requested a motion be made on the picnic tables. Ray made a motion suggesting 20 picnic tables of the highway departments choosing to be evenly dispersed and secured to the ground, with at least one table added to the Senior Park. Motion seconded by Greg. Motion accepted with a unanimous vote.

Next on the agenda. Minor enhancements. Diane: we may want to consider fixing up the basketball court with at least a small set of bleachers or seats along the sides. Also considered would be horseshoe pits. Ray submitted a picture of horseshoe pits from Wallum Lake. Diane asked where they get the equipment (horseshoes). Ray: They have two options. One is to provide the horseshoes and to hold the users driver's license until they are returned. The other option is that the patrons can bring their own horseshoes. Ray suggested 2-4 pits being built. Greg questioned the best place to put the pits. Ray suggested along the guardrails between the basketball court and the playground.

Volleyball Court. Ray presented a photo of the volleyball court at Buffumville. Greg suggested a spot between the swings and the water, near the beach. Ray: as with the horseshoe pits, if we provide a ball we hold a drivers license. Or the patrons can provide their own ball. Possibly a time limit for any group to use the court could be set so that it doesn't become dominated for extended periods of time by one group. Paul B suggested that the projects could be completed by, for example, an Eagle Scouts project or school Honor Society.

Diane: Our recommendation would be to improve the basketball court as needed with added seating.

Add 2-4 horseshoe pits and a volleyball court. Paul B made a motion to accept the recommendation as stated. Greg seconded the motion. Motion accepted with a unanimous vote.

Ray: Brought up the possibility of a dog park in the flat area in the center of the wooded walking track. There was a Dog Track set up a couple of years ago with a lot of interest in a dog park but areas proposed were not acceptable by the town for one reason or another. Through discussion it was decided that Ray contact a person from the Dog Track committee to suggest that they may want to pursue this area on their own with the BOS.

Next item for discussion was signage. Diane stated that she had contacted Ken Pizzetti from the highway dept. to ask if he could meet with us to discuss the need for certain signs. His response was that we needed to have every one of them. He was also contacted previously to attend a beach committee meeting and said he had no open time to accommodate us. Discussion to eliminate the large 22 item sign of “no’s” near the beach house.

Diane suggested that the signs are excessive and presented in a negative way. They are negative and unsightly. There should not be a rule for every little item that someone can think of.

Ray mentioned one of the signs in particular that states, No swimming or boat docking on the peninsula. Another states no fishing or swimming beyond this point and on the peninsula. Diane asked why. Ray stated that there was concern about boats getting caught in fishing lines etc. Diane: do you fish in the middle of the lake from shore? Diane: I see no reason to not allow fishing on the beach side of the peninsula.

Regarding swimming without life guards on duty. Wallum Lake opens at a certain time and lifeguards are not on duty until 2 hours after opening and leave an hour before closing. There are removable signs posted stating “Unguarded waters” which are placed whenever lifeguards are not available. The signs relieve the beach of responsibility for use such as in use at your own risk. The ultimate responsibility is on the parents to supervise their children.

Greg: what’s the best use of signage? A use at your own risk sign. Diane feels we won’t get a change in signage at the present time.

Ray: One sign that needs to be eliminated is at the walking track stating, “absolutely no playing on the grass subject to fines”.

General discussion-

Ray: Residents mentioned the need for a water dispenser near the bath house and at the walking track. There is piping available in both areas. Also there was talk from the ADA committee about beach access and again with info from Wallum lake, the State Parks have no specific access for handicapped noting that the vast majority of handicapped are not wheelchair bound and are mobile and can manage getting to and from the water. They do have “one” wheelchair available for use with large balloon tires. Diane suggested that the ADA committee make their recommendations directly to the BOS on this subject.

Diane will prepare a document for approval of the committee to submit to the BOS covering our thoughts on smaller amenities that can be grouped as advisory.

Diane, our next meeting will be February 25th.

Ray made a motion to adjourn. Second from Greg. Motion accepted with a unanimous vote.

