

Durham Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
Minutes
Thursday, January, 19, 2006

Attending: Ken Andersen, Denny Byrne, Jane Crooks, George Lamb, John Parry, Frank Pilar

The meeting was called to order at 1905. There were no public comments.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved as recorded.

1. Chair Parry announced that the Master Plan for P&R is on the back burner for now but the committee will work on this at extra meetings. Denny Byrne suggested we discuss the Old Mast Road plan at our next meeting.

2. The Jackson's Landing Planning Subcommittee will send out minutes of the last meeting. They are researching types of usage, number of users, times of use, seasonal usage, etc. and wish to determine what visions the public has of uses. A public hearing is planned for February. Denny Byrne reported that UNH will be considering changes in parking, launching, etc. Their next meeting will be on Monday 30 January. It was noted that dredging of the Oyster River channel is a politically sensitive issue.

3. Jane Crooks reported on the status of the Longmarsh Trail. An application has been submitted for funds to construct the bypasses to the two beaver dams. Abutters to the trail have been notified. It is hoped to hear of the outcome by March. The construction of the boardwalk bypasses of 500 ft total is estimated to cost about \$900. Planning is needed to consider parking at both ends of the trail.

4. Chair Parry reported on the need for a Recreation Opportunity Directory. Tentative forms to be included in the directory were distributed. The directory would be available on the Net for potential users to locate activities. The intent is to make residents aware of the many opportunities available to them to improve their physical and mental well being.

5. Dave Proulx of ORYA provided an update of their activities and plans. A new problem has arisen in the form of several recent resignations of key personnel. It is hoped to greatly enhance programs and activities in the future. Management of the ice rink is the greatest current problem due to resignation of the rink manager. One topic to consider in the future is the extending of use opportunities to adults.

6. Chair Parry reported on Property Signs and referred to the minutes of the 15 December 2005 meeting for the suggested form and wording. There is available \$2000 for signage. Ken Andersen reported that the January/February 2006 issue of AMC OUTDOORS has an article "The Psychology of Trail Signage" that would be of interest to our committee.

7. Skate board vendors are being contacted for information. Chair Parry indicated he now has literature from the American Ramp Co. for the essential equipment. Other vendors need to be contacted for similar information. The proposed area for the rink is across the road from the present ice arena.

8. Denny Byrne reported that further planning is needed for the proposed P&R Survey, viz., what questions need to be asked.

9. Neil Niman was not available to report on exploring playing field and recreational site opportunities since he is teaching an evening class Thursday evenings at UNH. This topic was introduced at the 15 December 2005 meeting. Discussion has been labelled to the next P&R meeting.

10. George Lamb reported that he has initiated contact with the Dover P&R director with respect to having him speak at one of our meetings but no final commitment has been made. George plans to follow up on this.

11. Future meetings of P&R will revisit leisure activities available at the Mill Pond Center. Will also consider other local organizations that promise to provide leisure activities.

12. Ken Andersen will follow up on requesting owners of grasslands to delay fall mowing to late autumn in order to protect wildlife nesting habitats.

13. Parking at Jackson's Landing was discussed. The need for late night trailer parking of UNH regatta teams in the lot was questioned. This involves two large hauling trailers and two smaller launching trailers. Complaints about this problem have been registered by a well-known Durham citizen. Denny Byrne reported that the present boathouse is to be repositioned.

14. An Arbor Day project with the Girl Scouts is being explored. Note that Durham is a TREE CITY USA this year.

15. The question was asked if P&R should assist in Durham Day activities. This topic will be discussed at our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2032.