

**Town of Durham, Parks & Recreation Committee
Minutes / May 21, 2009**

Present: Sara Wilson (chair), Emily Slama (vice chair), Amy Cunningham (co-secretary), Pat Houle (co-secretary), Mike Sievert, Dave Leach, Jenna Roberts, Jean Olson
(Absent: Gregg Moore)

Visitors: Mike Gamache, Dir., ORYA

Public Correspondence:

- Correspondence from resident Nell Neal regarding Wagon Hill and sustainability.
- Email from John Parry encouraging committee members to go see the recent updates at Jackson's Landing. There will be a short work session on June 20 or June 27 to finalize work that was started in the late fall. The grand opening celebration is scheduled for July 27. John also suggested having a "tennis ladder" at Woodridge. All agreed this was a good idea. John asked that P&R get it started. Dave Leach will (reluctantly) coordinate the tennis ladder if John is not available to do it.
- Correspondence from a town resident expressing concern about the use of the word "adopt" in the name of our new Adopt-A-Trail Program. The committee discussed the concern and voted.

MOTION: Sara Wilson moved that Parks & Recreation continue with the name Adopt-A-Trail, for its program. Jenna Roberts, second. VOTE: Yes, unanimous. The motion passed.

Nomination and election of officers for 2009-2010:

Jenna Roberts nominated Sara Wilson for committee chairperson. Mike Sievert, second.
Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Sara Wilson nominated Pat Houle and Amy Cunningham as co-secretaries. Dave Leach, second.
Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Jenna Roberts nominated Emily Slama for vice-chair. Jean Olson, second.
Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Reports/Updates:

Adopt-A-Trail – the training scheduled for May 17 was rained out. About 20 people have signed up as volunteers. Pat suggested that volunteers bring cameras to help with documenting work that needs to be done at the various trails for reporting to DPW. There will also be a form for trail volunteers to fill out for DPW. Pat reported that DPW has let him know that they will always get to these projects but that other town projects are likely to take precedence. It may take time to address all trail work, but it will get done.

Oyster River Dam Meeting, May 4 – Sara reported that approximately 40 people spoke. She read the statement that was agreed to at our meeting on April 16, 2009.

Bobcat Bolt – Jean, Sara, and Gregg attended and ran the P&R table. The turn-out was decent especially considering the weather and that it was the first year the event was held.

ORYI (Oyster River Youth Initiative) – discussion that it would be good to have a P&R member serve as a liaison to ORYI. Jenna volunteered.

ORBiT (Oyster River Bike Trail) – Maria Isaak hosted a meeting recently that was well attended. Next steps are that the town and Sara (as our rep from P&R) will meet with UNH to draft a Memorandum of Understanding regarding town use of the UNH owned trail (from Highland House to East Foss Farm).

Wagon Hill –

- The Community Garden is off to a good start. The soil is in good shape. The gardening group asked to put a shed next to the barn. Sara Ok'd this (on behalf of the committee). There is still concern from some members of P&R as to the location of the garden and possible future uses of that space - we would not want to have to move the garden once it's really established. As determined when agreeing to the community garden project, P&R will discuss location and the future with the community gardening group at the end of the season.
- Mike Gamache (ORYA) spoke about the possibility of developing Wagon Hill as an all-inclusive recreation spot. ORYA, ORPP, ORYI, etc., could all have space there. It would be possible to make WH self-sustaining (ex Churchill Rink) by hosting revenue generating events such as music festivals, tournaments, etc. Keep the space beautiful and promote it from a "green" perspective.

Discussion -

- The group should look at the Master Plan that was developed many years ago when talking about the future of WH.
- Do we want to use some of the land for athletic fields? If so, how many fields are we willing to put in?
- There will be residents who will want WH to remain as is. Whatever we do going forward, we will need to strike a balance.
- Sara asked the group to use their WH worksheets to put together ideas/plans for the future of WH and to be prepared to discuss at our June meeting.
- Mike Sievert reported that surveying will be done within the week and that the parking lot plan is moving forward.
- Sara reported that DPW has asked that P&R pay for the installation of the parking lot at WH. After discussion, the following motion regarding funding the parking lot was made:

MOTION: Sara Wilson moved that the Parks & Recreation Committee pay up to \$15,000. toward the cost of the parking lot at Wagon Hill out of the Lois Brown Trust, if the Trust allows, \$10,000. of which will be repaid to the trust out of the Parks & Recreation budget over the next ten years, in the amount of \$1,000. annually. Jenna Roberts, second. VOTE: Yes, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,
Amy Cunningham