

## Sullivan Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

10/5/23

The Parks and Rec Committee met at 6 pm at the Taunton Bay Education Center.

In attendance was Chairperson, Bonnie Sparks, Secretary, Misty Gleason, Committee members, Velma Thomas and Keith Hamel, Selectman, Bud Means and Taunton Bay Education Treasurer, Mike Fisher.

### **Agenda Item 1: Open Discussion with Friends of Taunton Bay member Mike Fisher.**

Mike gave a tour to our committee members of the facility. He then shared some history of Taunton Bay Education Center, it's purpose, research grants in place and board members. The Center provided camps in the summer in the past (and would like to get collaboration with our committee to continue), Special Speakers in the summer, produce two newsletters a year, and progress reports on their website. They also have a weather station and have obtained grants for research in the bay to monitor biological content in the bay and an on-going project to count horseshoe crabs. High school students offer support.

Bonnie Sparks agreed to contact Alice Noise (Taunton Bay Education Center) to pursue collaborative efforts to continue summer camps and special speakers. Bud Means expressed interest as well.

The weather station needs to reset after each power outage. Bonnie Sparks will research a battery backup and Bud Means assured bringing that request to Selectman meeting would be next step for approval.

Bud Means shared selectmen's interest to have all committees be represented monthly at the board meetings to share committee progress.

### **Agenda Item 2: Old Business**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the Sept. 14 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, and minutes were approved. Bonnie Sparks will send them to be posted to the website.

Flagpole Lighting Update: No update

#### **Sullivan Daze Planning Committee**

Misty Gleason will revise a letter to local business and services to engage them in Sullivan DAZE.

Key points discussed were the need for the following:

- \*Venue expansion across the town of Sullivan engaging businesses and services
- \*Each business and service participating should be marked by a flag or yard sign
- \*Necessity to determine a BRANDING EVENT to draw attention and interest.

Many ideas for Sullivan DAZE subcommittee were floated and recorded to be shared with subcommittee.

### **Agenda Item 3: New Business**

The mission, charges and responsibilities of the Parks and Rec Committee were approved by motion and passed.

**Committee Make Up:** There was a motion made and approved to include 8 voting members on our committee, 4 members with 2 year terms and 4 members with 3 year terms. Bud Means suggested a high school student be added but not a voting member.

**Survey:** The committee is moving forward with the development of an interest survey to share with the community. The committee will share ideas to be included via email in the coming weeks.

#### **Final Item: 2023-24 plan for benches and table at other town properties**

Bud Means shared approval and budget availability (pending quotes unless indicated) for:

2 Benches 8 ft at Gordons Wharf, 2 Picnic tables 8ft at Gordons Wharf

Flanders Pond 1 Picnic Table

Sumner Park 2 Benches 10 ft long (completed and at park)

Flanders Bay Boat Ramp 1 Picnic Table 8 ft. long

Playground 2 Picnic tables and 1 Bench (in progress and approved)

Keith and Velma Thomas are willing to do the construction of above if approved.

#### **Other:**

Bud Means concluded the meeting with a reminder to begin to develop budget goals for 2024 NOW.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.