

11/2/23

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting met at Taunton Bay Education Center

In attendance: Bonnie Sparks, Bud Means, Don Snoke, Misty Gleason, Velma Thomas, Keith Hamel, Yvette Grindle, Ray Weintraub, Gary Edwards, Conrad Ober, and guest speaker, Roger Wakefield

Guest Speaker, Roger Wakefield shared the history of the Hancock Tennis Facility in Sullivan. The surface of the courts is exceptional.

It is an Astroturf base with sand surface providing players some slide. Presently it is used by a few women and men's groups in the mornings during the week. Providing some programs for tennis instruction, possibly during Sullivan Daze and on weekends was discussed. Use of the court is free for all Sullivan residents at any time courts are free. There is a sign-up chart at the courts. The park and court are deeded strictly for tennis use! All Sullivan residents are welcome!

New Business

Item 1: Contact Information was gathered for all committee members.

Item 2: Terms for Committee Members and available seat

Velma Thomas 3 yr 207-479-8766 velmat68@gmail.com
Keith Hamel 3 Yr 207-479-8766 velmat68@gmail.com
Yvette Grindle 3 yr 207-610-3531 ygrindle@gmail.com
Gary Edwards 2 yr (one year served) 207-422-0995 gandjedwards@gwil.net
Misty Gleason 3 yr 706-799-4126 mgsylvan@comcast.net
Bonnie Sparks 2 year 207-664-8180 sparks@maine.edu
Don Snoke 207-266-2339 dsnoke@roadrunner.com

One seat is vacant for a voting committee member.

Action: Ray Weintraub will contact the HS principal to begin recruiting a HS student rep.

Item 3: Committee protocols/etiquette- discussion tabled for next meeting

Item 4: Budget Overview – discussion tabled until more information is available.

There are 3 picnic tables and 3 benches in construction to be up for approval at the upcoming Selectboard meeting. This committee has provided a quote to the Selectboard from Keith Hamel for approval at the meeting in December to build the above mentioned

Item 5: Meeting Time/Location

A motion was made and passed to have future meetings at Town Office at 5 pm on first Thursday of each month.

Item 6: Identifying Committee Priorities for upcoming year.

- Sumner Park Improvements to include handicapped accessibility and landscape.
- Gordon's Wharf landscape
- Sullivan Daze oversight of Sullivan Daze future committee

There was agreement on the above priorities and will continue to build objectives for each.

Item 7: Webpage on Town website

Ray Weintraub shared the intent to have a webpage for each committee. He will establish the foundation of the site with our mission statement and charges. From there we can add content.

Item 8: Guest presentation at December meeting – we are hopeful to gain insight from the Fire Dept. on past Sullivan Daze experiences.

Old Business

Item 1: Sullivan Daze planning initiative

- Improve Branding
- Signature Activity
- Increase local business and service involvement
- Extend venue through all of Sullivan

Our initiative at this time is to all be involved in the recruitment of a valuable Sullivan Daze Committee. An invitation letter will be distributed by Velma Thomas and Misty Gleason and posted on the website and Facebook encouraging business and service providers to attend a meeting to share their ideas and learn how the event can benefit their business. All are welcome!

A few members of our committee will be part of the Sullivan Daze Committee as well to create a connection to this committee. (Velma Thomas, Keith Hamel, Misty Gleason will support the committee)

Item 2: Survey of Recreation and Parks Interests

Bonnie Sparks has created a two-page simple survey that will be extremely helpful to our committee and to the Comprehensive Planning Committee to assure we are meeting the needs and interests of the residents of Sullivan. The committee made a motion, and it was passed, to approve the survey, and its distribution to the community through multiple methods including paper in Crier and on the town webpage as well as Facebook.

Item 3: Follow-up with Friends of Taunton Bay – event series, kids camps.

Bonnie Sparks shared contacts she has made in the community to work toward some interesting programming to include summer camps in collaboration with the Friends of Taunton Bay. The committee showed great interest. A motion was made that was passed to continue to explore these ideas but remain vigilant to priorities approved at this meeting. (New Business Item 6)

Item 4: Sumner Park: Bonnie Sparks met with garden club to share ideas, commitment to provide water at the park, and ideas for landscape and gardening assistance to the club. Volunteers are needed and welcome!

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:05 pm.