

Bare Cove Park Committee – Minutes

Tuesday – 7:00 PM, November 15, 2016

Members attending: Bob Smaldone, Dewitt DeLawter, Susan Kains, Ted Matthews, Rik Johnson, Dick Callahan and Scott McMillan

Meeting called to order: 7:03 PM

1. **Review and accept minutes from 9/13/16 meeting:** Bob moved to accept, Dewitt seconded and they were approved. **Review and accept minutes from 10/11/16 meeting:** Rik moved to accept, Bob seconded and they were approved.
2. **Guest Presenter:** John Childs informed us that the 8-26-16 End of Summer Classic Race would be his last. This year we had 222 runners with 215 paying the entry fee. The gross receipts totaled \$7,150 and the expenses totaled approximately \$6,100. There were \$750 of sponsor checks so about \$2,000 was raised. Ted thanked John for his efforts and results over the past 9 years. Ted also had been in touch with Colin Henry at RaceWire regarding the possibility of an alternate event that would replace the EOOSC, and function as an annual BCP fundraiser.
3. **Rangers Report:** The new mower blades have been installed. Scott said the highway department has planted 2 new oak trees by the Green Dock House building. These trees replaced the Weeping Willow that fell in the unnamed storm this summer for a total cost of \$370. The trees are properly spaced and should create shade by the building and river. New signs have been made and installed regarding the new leash law. They are at the entrances near Conservatory Park, Lynch Field, 99 Restaurant and the main entrance on BCP Drive. Posts have been installed for the new kiosks that will mark some critical areas. Cans and bottles were recycled from Building 80. New leash law appears to have lessened park use resulting in fewer people and less trash. Scott is seeing a different crowd. The full leash implementation plan is in progress. ACO Leslie Badger has been in the park on a regular basis. Additional coverage provided by 2 assistant Harbor Masters. The Dock House Museum will be open on Sunday 11/20 from 10:00-12:00. Rik moved to accept the Ranger Report, Susan seconded and the report was approved.
4. **Treasurers Report:** Rik says we are tracking favorably on our expenses through the first 4 months of the fiscal year. Dick moved to accept, Bob Seconded and the report was approved.
5. **November 1st new leash law:** Rik reported seeing dogs on leashes. Dick says he is in the park almost every day between 8:00-9:30 and is observing about a 60% decrease in use. While Dick would like to see a compromise in the leash law, he's not sure if Bare Cove Park is the place for a Dog Park. If it can't be done in BCP some other location should be considered. Susan emphasized that there are some RI parks that are run by professionals and they are all on the same page as far as the dogs. They are not allowed off leash. Ted mentioned he spent a couple of hours with Scott this past weekend in the park. Parking lots were basically full on both ends. Ran into ACO during this visit and she confirmed seeing the same. Her comments were that the people in the park were leashing dogs and many new patrons she had not seen before. Scott confirmed this at the meeting. Ted has been talking with The Town Administrator about the TOH Conservation Officer to be part of the BCP Committee. Not sure that Conservation Land is an acceptable alternative for off-leash dogs. Chief Olson wants the public to look for an alternate dog site. There was discussion from the public voicing the opinion that the new leash law was too strict and they were looking for a compromise. We heard from Jim Morrison, Bill Hanlon, Fran Rockette, Marcia Stevens, Diane Tavoires, Liz Esmond, Mike

Esmond, and Katie Sutton. According to Mr. Hanlon, this group of Bare Cove Park Dog Advocates would like to know if 'The Committee' was going to support compromise within the park related to off-leashing, or whether they had to focus on other properties, or potentially look for another way to get the park back. Question was asked by Mr. Hanlon related to whether the Committee had voted on the leash regulation. Was stated to Mr. Hanlon that the committee had been surveyed in 2015 and that survey was the basis of their Majority and Minority Reports presented to Selectmen at their 9/3/2015 meeting. The new regulations were just going into effect, and that people unhappy with the new regulation should seek alternatives. It was during this discussion that Barbara Nicosia said that after 16 years she would no longer be tending the Triangle Garden near the main entrance. Ted and the Committee recognized Barbara for the large amount of work this has taken over the years and thanked Barbara for her service.

6. ***Late fall mowing and winter plowing plan:*** The mowing plan continues to be a work in progress. We will number the fields by their former Building site number and create a plan for each location. Ted met with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) last week. During the meeting Ted became aware that some of the pads that were buried in 2007 are considered AUL's. AUL's must be maintained properly. Several buildings AUL site/foundation pads are now fields. These fields have 12-18" of soil and sand on them covering the asbestos that was buried. Therefore, nothing can be allowed to grow deep enough that would penetrate the 12-18" layer. So virtually all areas will have to be cut at least once a year. Scott will continue the previous plowing plan. We do have a larger and more powerful truck for plowing this year. We also have a new snow blower to help keep the Handicap parking spaces on the Lynch Field lot open. There is trouble on Lynch Field with blowing snow and drifting. Maybe use snow fencing? On the days that school is closed BCP may be closed as well so that Scott can get the road/trails cleared.
7. ***220 Beal St Revised 40B plan:*** Appears that this project is moving forward with the density reduced from 330 to a maximum of 220. The Town of Hingham will receive the following mitigation 1)\$1,000,000 for Plymouth River School windows. 2) Bare Cove Park will receive \$50,000 to be spent within the boundaries. \$25,000 for HPD sign trailers. 25% of the units will be affordable. Could be a year before BCP sees the funds.
8. ***Army Corp of Engineers/DOD Plan:*** The USACE has awarded an investigative project to a consultative firm to look at specific areas in BCP and the Weymouth Back River for the potential of unexploded ordnances left over from the period where the park property was used as a Naval Ammunition Depot. Safety is paramount to US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Appropriate work plans will be developed and presented in a public meeting potentially scheduled for May 2017. A USACE Ordnance and Explosive Safety Specialist will provide oversight for all related activities. Areas of interest are the North Pier near the 3A Bridge, South Pier near the green dock house, the burial area, dump area and the entire Weymouth Back River.
9. ***New signage for entrances and fragile areas:*** 2 sided kiosks have/will be placed near Hockley Run, Indian Point, the Conservatory loop vernal pool, and Bridgers Path crossings near nesting fields this month. Pertinent information will be posted regarding BCP critical areas.

ADJOURNED: 9:35 PM Rik motioned, Dick seconded and it was approved

Next Meeting: 12-13-16

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Smaldone, Secretary