Minutes of the February 12th, 2018

Winslow Park Commission Meeting

6:30 PM

@ Freeport Town Hall

As produced by Neil Lyman

Winslow Park Manager and Winslow Park Commission Secretary

In Attendance- Robin Barron, Karissa Davan, Carla Dupuis, Lucy Lloyd, George Connick, Nancy Marquis, Neil Lyman

 Absent- Steve James, Kim Swett, Doug Reighley

 Meeting convened at 6:30

The Minutes of the January 8th, 2018 meeting were approved with two corrections:

1. There was a typo with the date. Needs to be changed from January of 2017 to January of 2018.
2. Change L.L. Beans to L.L. Bean

**Old Business:**

* The commission discussed a recent phone conference between members of the commission ( Karissa Davan, Robin Barron, Carla Dupuis), park staff ( Neil Lyman) and staff at INFORME, who manage the reservation system for the state parks. It was reported the capabilities of the system seem to be in line with what the park is looking for. There was some confusion about the $1.95 reservation fee as the state parks are charging $5.00 per night. The staff at INFORME reported during the phone conference however that this included the states private fees and that their company only charges the $1.95 generally.
	+ Robin Barron stated that park staff will have to be diligent about immediately inputting reservations while the customer is still on the phone or with them to assure getting proper site information. If they were to wait to input said information someone could book it online during the lapse.
	+ George Connick asked if there is still a reservation fee if people are reserving sites directly through park staff. Neil replied that there would still be a fee because you are still using their website to reserve the site.
	+ Karissa Davan suggested that we ask INFORME about rapid renewal procedures/options.
	+ Neil noted that this system would not be ready for opening reservations in 2018, but could possibly be implemented for tests and getting staff familiar with it over the 2018 summer.
	+ Neil also noted that this would be a good time to upgrade internet at the park and get one system/provider for all of the parks internet needs.
	+ Newer members of the commission asked about expanding Wifi at the park. Neil Lyman noted that the park had gotten estimates for park wide Wifi a number of years ago and that the commission had voted not to pursue it. George Connick noted that that decision was not made due to technological aspects, but rather that members at the time wanted to stick with basic amenities more in line with a more traditional, natural camping atmosphere.
		- Neil Lyman did state that he planned on having Wifi access at the new community building as well as an area or two for people to charge phones.
	+ Karissa Davan made a motion to pursue an online reservation system through INFORME. The vote was unanimously in favor.
* A discussion was opened concerning seasonally rented sites and the parks current policy on these sites.
	+ Neil reported that currently the fees for these sites are $1,700 for non-residents and $1,000 for residents. Currently only three of these sites are rented by residents.
	+ Neil Also reported that off the water sites (which the seasonal sites all are) which are not rented seasonally earn approximately $1,400 a year on average.
	+ George Connick noted that the renting of sites year after year, for the whole season, was brought into question a number of years ago. At that time the trustee for the park did state that if the issue was pursued legally, that there was a chance of it being found in violation of the trust.
	+ George also noted that not having these sites occupied continuously would open up a lot more room for general night to night campers to have water view sites as well as larger sites for big campers and RV’s.
	+ Robin Barron asked about demand for the seasonal sites and Neil Lyman stated that it is very high. Neil also noted that the practice of renting sites in this manner, as he understands it, started when the parks budget was very tight and they needed upfront income going into the season. This is not the case at the current time.
	+ Karissa Davan asked if anyone can just walk in and rent a site for the whole season. Neil answered that currently only the 23 waterfront sites are limited to two week stays. All the rest of the sites can be rented for any length of time, although not at the discount provided through the lottery chosen sites. He also noted that this does occur somewhat frequently.
	+ Lucy Lloyd stated she had concerns about treating the sites as a development and real estate rather than putting community accessibility as the main concern.
	+ It was decided that the Trustee and possibly the town council should be informed of this issue and weigh in.
	+ Nancy Marquis suggested possibly doing a lottery every year rather than people getting the sites year after year. She noted the Harb Cottage and the camps in Rangeley run by L.L. Bean as examples.
	+ George stated that he believes the commission should take a firm stance on the issue before it goes forward or to other deciding bodies.

**New Business:**

* Neil Lyman informed the board that he intended to do street light upgrades in the spring. The town will be doing extensive upgrades at the same time and it will save money if everyone does them at once. The park will purchase the LED lights rather than lease more expensive options from CMP. The cost will be around $3,000- $4000 dollars and is estimated to pay off in approximately 4 years.

**Other Business:**

**Public Comment:**

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:00 PM