Minutes of the June 11th, 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- Kim Swett, Karissa Davan, Lucy Lloyd, Robin Baron, George Connick, Susan Hazzard, Doug Reighley, Neil Lyman, Mark Standen ( Park Trustee)

Absent- Nancy Marquis

Meeting convened at 6:30

The Minutes of the April 9th, 2018 meeting were approved.

**Old Business:**

* A brief update on progress with online reservations was given. Neil informed the commission that he is negotiating with INFORME on an upfront cost to decrease their asking rate per night which would be passed on to campers.
* Doug Reighley asked about how the season was shaping up. Neil Lyman responded that numbers and income were on par with previous years.
* George Connick presented a motion titled, “A Proposal for the Termination of the “Seasonal” campsite rental practice at Winslow Park, Freeport, Maine” :
  + George stated that after extensively going through historical documents related to the park and that this is what led to his motion to end the current seasonal camping methods. He stated that the motion presented included two separate issues. The first issue presented was to terminate the seasonal campsite practice and the second was to establish new procedures for the sites that had been seasonal campsites. He noted that a NO vote on the first issue would make the second moot.
  + A discussion was opened concerning Mr. Connick’s proposed motions.
  + Mark Standen, the parks trustee, stated that in his opinion, the intent of Ms. Harb as pertains to this issue is hard to define due to the language of the trust, but that the proposed motion would probably be more in line with operating like a state park than the current practice. He noted that the specific language in the trust that would pertain to this states that the park is “to be used as a public park for recreational purposes.”
  + Mr. Standen also noted that either the proposed motion or the current practice could be embraced by the language in the trust and that this is not as much a matter of a legal conclusion as it is an opinion on the language within the trust. He concluded that there is nothing wrong in his opinion from a legal standpoint and that this would be more a political issue concerning the perception of what “public recreation” means.
  + Robin Baron stated that it seems that what this would be working toward is a “back to basics” approach to things.
  + Neil Lyman stated that this issue would more than likely need to go to council for any changes as defined in the motion.
  + Susan Hazzard commented that the message and any policy changes would need to be very clearly laid out.
  + Doug Reighley stated that the Town Council would need to post the issue for a public hearing where anyone can come and comment and that the outcome would be based on arguments by those present and the commission’s presentation. The issue would be voted on at that meeting of the Council. Mr. Reighley also noted that the ordinance would need to change.
  + Susan Hazzard noted the wording in the trust that the park be open for residents of Freeport and elsewhere and that there were very few Freeport occupied seasonal sites.
  + Lucy Lloyd noted that clarity and transparency on this issue were key.
  + **Doug Reighley made a motion to vote on recommending the motion brought forth by Mr. Connick. Mr. Connick seconded Mr. Reighleys motion.** 
    - **A vote was taken with the seven commission members at the meeting. The vote passed by a 4-3 vote in favor of the proposed motion.**
    - Karissa Davan stated that she did not vote in favor of the proposed motion due to her feeling that the timeline outlined in said document should be expedited.
    - George Connick stated that he had added leaving the current practice in place through 2019 as a way to ease out of it. Robin Baron noted that he agreed with this approach.
    - Doug Reighley stated to the commission that this would be moved on to the town council at the commission’s discretion.
    - Karissa Davan stated that there should be one public hearing.
    - Doug Reighley stated that more than one public hearing can be a plus in working out details and for people to voice their oppinions.
    - Susan Hazzard added that a forum for public impact would be a good idea.
    - George added that as sites have been seasonal for so long that people probably don’t try to rent them and that publicity about open sites could increase use.
    - Doug Reighley asked Neil Lyman to check with Peter Joseph, the town manager, on his opinion of what public hearings are necessary.
    - Susan Hazzard added that there is a lot of value in open discussion.
    - Doug added that the motion is to move the issue to the Freeport Town Council and that it may also need to go to the town’s ordinance committee and that this process could take three to six months.

**New Business:**

* Neil Lyman outlined the larger upcoming projects, including replacing more old log barricades with boulders and fencing, the handicapped area overlooking the beach and replacement of launch ramp docks.
  + Susan Hazzard asked about the status of the docks. Neil replied that there are usually seven dock sections going out. Two of these were replaced last year, two were destroyed in the wind storm last fall and the other three were repaired and are in the water. He also noted that the park lost two upright piles. One was replaced already in order to get the repaired docks in and the one that is further out will require a special barge to be installed.
* Yearly votes were taken to elect a chair and vice chair for the Commission. George Connick was elected Vice Chair and Karissa Davan and Susan Hazzard were elected co-chairs. Both votes were unanimous, with George Connick abstaining from the vote concerning himself.

**Other Business:**

**Public Comment:**

Doug Reighley motioned that the meeting be adjourned, with Kim Swett seconding it. All were in favor.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:00PM