Minutes of the September 11th 2017

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- Karissa Davan, Robin Baron, Carla Dupuis, Lucy Lloyd, Peter Anzuini, Steve James, Kim Swett, George Connick Neil Lyman (Park Manager

Absent- Nancy Marquis

Meeting convened at 6:30

The Minutes of the June 10th, 2017 meeting were approved

**Old Business:**

* An update was given by Neil Lyman on various ongoing projects at the park.
  + The house which was moved from Pound of Tea Island is coming along and the interior is just about finished. The electrician coming back will be the final step in order to install fixtures and final components.
  + The new construction of a replacement maintenance building is in the works for approval. The plans have been submitted to the town review board who will meet on October 11th to go over everything. Hopefully the project will be approved on that date.
  + Lee Hutchins, a park employee, has been building picnic tables to replace the older more beat up ones throughout the park. He has replaced nearly 40 so far. Any old tables that were somewhat salvageable/useable were given away for free to park users and land trusts. Ones in total disrepair were disposed of.
  + Handicapped access at the park and specifically to the beach was discussed further. It seemed to be a general consensus that massive construction to the paved ramp at this time was not cost effective or necessary. Peter Anzuini suggested speaking to the Elders association and the town active living to get input on access. Steve James discussed the idea of a handicapped area just before the gate overlooking the beach with Handicapped parking and an accessible platform area with a bench and table. This is a more realistic option for the short term. Neil Lyman will check with the towns codes enforcement officer about the platform and if it meets all codes try to install such an area this fall.
* Karissa Davis gave an update on research she has done into a new reservation system for the park. She has spoken with the state about their software for public place reservations and they said that Winslow may meet qualifications to use said software. Karissa volunteered to contact the state further with a scope of what the park needs. Neil Lyman needs to work up a scope of what is needed to get it to Karissa. Karissa added that the system seems really good and has won awards and praise. Robin Baron added that his business has gone to online reservations and that once it is in place it is much easier.

**New Business:**

* Neil Lyman opened a discussion about user fees for schools, recreation departments. Recently the spring has seen an increase in many schools outside the RSU5 system requesting the park for field days. Due to the size of these groups, generally only one group can use the park each day. There has never been a special fee for other schools, public or private, set. Neil informed the Commission that he has been doing flat fees of one dollar per person for said groups.
  + Robin Baron and Carla Dupuis suggested that we stick with one dollar per person for all organized school groups.
  + George Connick expressed concern that budgeting for such outings for rural and small school districts in Maine is an issue. He expressed that since the park is capable that there should be minimal fees and that the park should encourage such field trips and general youth activities.
  + Lucy Lloyd expressed concern that if there is no or very little of a fee that it could become too much for the park to handle.
  + A vote was taken to set the rate at one dollar per person for school groups. 6 in favor with George Connick and Peter Anzuini Opposed. George felt that the fee should be lower and Peter felt that is should be more.
* Neil Lyman brought forward an issue which park users asked that the commission discuss. Some users in neighboring towns feel that the Freeport discounts and free camping should apply to all towns in the RSU district.
  + George Connick stated that the trust very plainly laid out that the park benefit residents of the town of Freeport and that it may violate the trust to expand from current policy.
  + Lucy Lloyd stated that there are many public policies which include only town residents such as library services.
  + No vote taken. Policy remains the same
* Lucy Lloyd asked about speed bump installation on side roads at the park. Neil stated that he will try and get them in this fall.

**Public Comment:**

Meeting adjourned 7:40PM