8 Jul 2019

Winslow Park Commission

General Issues:

1. Minutes of meetings should be posted on the website. Last minutes posted was the Sep 2017 meeting. Posting minutes are a State of Maine requirement for public meetings.

2. Committee of 9 people has 3 Chairpersons, 2 Co-chairs and 1 Vice Chair. Should be a Chairperson and a Vice Chair. When everyone is in charge, no one is in charge.

3. Purpose of Committee is to oversee the operation of the Park and attract users to the Park. The Commission has been driving away Seasonal Campers and dog walkers. The Commission should attract users, not drive them away.

4. Public comments are now only taken at the end of the meetings after all the votes are taken. Questions to the Commissioners are not currently allowed. Procedure for motions should be changed to the following:

Motion made by a Commissioner,

Motion seconded by a second Commissioner,

Commissioners discussion,

Public comments and questions,

Commissioners final comments,

Vote.

5. Any complaints about the Park that are of significance, need to be documented. Encourage complainers to submit in writing. If not submitted in writing, then the Town employee or Commissioner taking the complaint must write down Who, What, Where, When and Why as much as can be determined. Complaints not documented will not be considered valid. Such terms as “someone told me”, “everyone I talk to”, etc. will no longer be valid.

6. The Commission should adopt the Roger’s Rules of Order for the operation of meetings.

7. Commissioners have a right to vote but along with that right is an obligation to be informed about the topic being voted on. “I wasn’t here last month so will vote no” is not acceptable. If not informed, the Commissioner must abstain.

Seasonal Sites:

1. A motion was made last spring by George Connick to eliminate seasonal campsite in the 2020 season. On several occasions, George referred to the sites being assigned “in perpetuity” which is wrong. The seasonal sites are renewable at the discretion of the Park Manager and the average length of stay is 10 years, not perpetuity.

2. At the July meeting about 50 people showed up to protest the elimination of seasonal sites. All speakers except one wanted to keep seasonal sites and the motion was rescinded. The users of the Park do not want to eliminate the seasonal sites for a host reasons including the Park atmosphere, smooth operation and increased revenue.

3. George then came back with a new motion to phase out the seasonal sites by attrition instead of by a deadline. He insisted his new motion was totally different. He didn’t hear the people who spoke. We do not want to eliminate the seasonal sites. Period. Changing the date doesn’t change the result.

4. That motion was then withdrawn and we were told by Doug Reighley that the issue was resolved and we would like the resolution. Not true!

5. The resolution was to tell Neil Lyman not to assign any new seasonal campers until the issue is resolved. That action is in the Dec 2018 meeting notes but I was at the meeting and don’t remember any such discussion or motion. The issue was never brought up as old business at any of the subsequent meetings. It should have been brought up under old business at each subsequent meeting.

6. Since last Dec, I have attended each meeting and at the public comment I encouraged the Commission to assign seasonal sites by a wait list instead of a lottery. No Commissioner said anything until the May meeting when I learned it was a moot point since seasonal campers were no longer being assigned.

7. In the past two years, the Seasonal sites have gone down in number from 30 to 24. An average of 3 sites per year not being renewed. Pretty much the same average as past years.

Sincerely,

Jim and Martha Hughes