Minutes of the Monday, October 21st , 2019

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-, Susan Hazzard, George Connick, Kim Swett, Pierre Shevenell, Doug Reighley, Neil Lyman

Absent- Nancy Marquis, Lucy Lloyd

Meeting convened at 6:30

The meeting notes of September, 2019 were unanimously approved

Susan Hazzard explained to the commission members that the roll of the commission is to act as an advisory committee to the town council. She expressed concern that there may be some confusion within the community about what it means when the commission votes on certain issues and that the town council has final say over important issues.

Neil Lyman reported that the recent storm had done some damage at the park, but nothing extensive.

**Public Comment:**

Four park users in attendance voiced concern over the current dates for off leash dog walking which are currently November 1st to April 30th. Those who spoke would like there to be a longer off leash season. Concern was also voiced about the park not allowing dogs to be off leash in the parking lots and on the main right of way through the park.

**Old Business:**

* Hand outs of a recent legal opinion from the towns’ attorney regarding seasonally rented campsites were distributed. Susan Hazzard reminded the group that there had been a vote to hold off on renting available seasonal sites until legal information was obtained. She noted that the towns’ attorney and the trust attorney had now given their opinion on the matter.
  + Doug Reighley proposed a change to the ordinance regarding seasonal campsites.
  + George Connick stated that he didn’t feel that the letter from the town attorney specifically addressed the issues and that he still feels that seasonal campsites affect availability to the public.
  + Susan Hazzard said, based on the legal opinion of the town attorney and trust attorney, that the practice of seasonal campers would seem to be ok and that receipt of the legal opinion from the town attorney should be acknowledged by the commission.
  + Pierre Shevenell stated that he is still uncomfortable with year after year renewals of seasonal sites.
* A public comment session regarding this issue was opened. Two park users spoke in favor of keeping the practice regarding seasonal camping as it has been.
* Doug Reighley moved to accept the attorneys’ letter. The vote was unanimously in favor.
* Doug Reighley voiced concern that the current park ordinance online had not been updated properly and that he would table the discussion on his proposed suggested ordinance changes until the proper updated ordinance was online.
* Neil Lyman stated that due to this issue not being resolved for quite some time that he would return to renting seasonal sites as they had been rented for many years.
* Neil Lyman Reported that planning was in progress on the accessibility project for beach access by local engineers Barney Baker and Travis Prior.
* The long range planning of the park was discussed.
  + Susan Hazzard noted that future planning should accommodate more park use. She asked the commission to go over a rough draft of a long term plan, which she handed out, and make any revisions or additions for future discussion.

**New Business:**

**Other Business:**

* Neil Lyman stated that after speaking with the parks dock builders/installers that they suggested one more length of dock rather than two and the replacement of one pile that was destroyed a couple years ago. Neil to get prices for this work.
* Doug Reighley commented that a constituent had voiced concern over the use of airboats at the park launch ramp and that said constituent believes that the park is for recreational purposes. Said constituent feels the airboats are for commercial use and should not be operated from the parks ramp.
  + George Connick stated that the parks trust does not specifically limit commercial use.
* George Connick stated that Paul Powers, a former park trustee, had warned the town council that he would work to reverse the current situation of the town running the park if the town violated the trust as the town does not own the park.

The Next meeting was set for November 18th as the 11th is Veterans Day

Meeting adjourned at 7:30