

Minutes
Alton Parks and Recreation Commission
November 28, 2018
6:30pm, Pearson Road Community Center

Members Present: Elizabeth Shelton, Ruth Arsenault, Everett Clark

BOS Representative: P. Wittmann

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle-Parks and Recreation Director, Ken Roberts-Highway Manager

Public: Patrick O'Brien, Bob Bergeron, Virginia Bergeron, Leslie Rentel, Larry Sullivan

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chairwoman, E. Shelton.

Approval of Agenda

E. Clark made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, motion was seconded by R. Arsenault and passed.

Approval of Minutes

E. Clark made a motion to approve the Minutes of October 17, 2018 as written; motion was seconded by R. Arsenault and passed.

Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person- agenda items only)

There was no public input.

Appointment with Mt. Major Snowmobile Club

The Snowmobile Club requested permission to establish a snowmobile access route along the right side of Jones Field and over the Jones Field Pedestrian bridge for snowmobile use to get to public parking areas. The Club noted the importance of the trail, and that they had permission to use property from surrounding land owners. The trail would be groomed with the four-foot drag, snow fence and signs could be added to keep riders on the trail and a protective covering could be added to the bridge to prevent damage. K. Roberts noted that the bridge is scheduled for repairs in December and would be closed for the repairs. K. Roberts questioned the load capacity of the bridge since there is no design in the Town files, and wanted to make sure the bridge was designed to accommodate the weight of more than pedestrian traffic. K. Roberts noted that damage from snowmobiles occurred on the foot bridge in the past, and a substantial covering would be needed to protect the bridge deck from snowmobile cleats; also a low side railing would be recommended to keep riders on the route. K. Roberts suggested that snow fencing be installed and removed by the club along the right side of the field, along with signage and that the Town consult with the Town Attorney in regard to liability on the requested route. Lastly, K. Roberts noted that overnight parking is not permitted, but trailer parking is allowed up to 72 hours on the Letter S Road. There was discussion about the items

mentioned. The Club stated that walking, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing would not conflict with the snowmobiles. The Club volunteered to help clear out the Jones Field Loop Trail to access the trail on the right side of Jones Field, and said their use would help groom the Loop Trail for other recreational activities. It was noted that the Highway Department cleared the Jones Field Loop Trail originally but it needs grading and a hard packed surface to be more inviting for users. E. Clark made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen a conditional recommendation of approval with the following conditions: (1) The bridge will need to be repaired as scheduled before it can be used; (2) Snow fence would need to be installed and removed by the Club with signage along the route indicating the trail; (3) A protective covering over the decking of the bridge would need to be installed and removed by the Club; if there is any damage to the bridge caused by snowmobiles, the Club would be responsible for making the repairs; (4) Over-night parking is prohibited by Town Policy and will be enforced. The motion was seconded by R. Arsenault and passed.

Old Business

Quannippi Trail Signage- K. Troendle reported that the Town is waiting for a proof and estimate from Todd McKinney for the trail signs. K. Troendle recommended that the Commission view the proof before the signs are ordered to confirm the sign color preference (brown text/graphic on yellow background) because that color is different than the traditional state/national park design.

Alton Bay Water Bandstand Day- K. Troendle said she met with the Board of Selectmen in regard to the Parks and Recreation Department sponsoring events on Alton Bay Water Bandstand Day and the Board of Selectmen said they are not authorizing Parks and Recreation Department resources for the Water Bandstand Committee's celebration day. So unfortunately the Parks and Recreation Department is not able to sponsor a concert or water race around the bandstand. K. Troendle stated that the Board of Selectmen informed the Water Bandstand Committee on November 5, 2018 that the Committee would need to request a warrant article for funds for their event (similar to the Old Home Week Committee).

Dog Park- The Committee discussed the idea of a Dog Park, and noted that at this time there is little interest for a Dog Park facility. The Commission stated that there are many opportunities for dogs to enjoy recreational parks and trails in Alton where dogs are welcome.

Barbershopper's Jamboree- The Commission discussed the Barbershopper's Jamboree and noted a decline in interest and attendance in the event, and that times are changing with how people choose to listen to music and spend time with their families. The Commission is co-sponsoring the Jamboree in 2019 and will also be sponsoring a live band concert at the Land Bandstand on August 17, 2019. The band concert was requested by the public as part of the ongoing Summer Concert Series program.

Light Up Night- Light Up Night is Saturday, December 1, 2018 from 5:00pm-7:30pm. Events include: Santa and a kid's craft at Town Hall, Holiday Hayride, Caroling, Tree Lighting at Ginny Douglas Park, and the PMHS Choral performance at the Community Church. Many volunteers help make the program possible.

New Business

Jones Field Loop Trail- The Commission discussed the email submission from Jonathan Downing asking for the schedule to complete the Jones Field Loop Trail. It was noted that the Highway Department cleared the trail as wide and as low as possible. K. Roberts said in order to make further upgrades to the trail so it's more usable, it would be a costly project because 4' wide fabric and ledge pack would be needed. It was noted that the snowmobile use of the trail and the Club's efforts to clear the trail would help develop the trail, but leveling hills and removing stumps is needed. R. Arsenault said there are many existing trails in Alton already that are available and the Loop Trail should stay the way it is for now and if volunteers come forward to clear the trail the volunteers can make the improvements. R. Arsenault stated there is an active group of volunteers that work on trails: <https://naturegroupie.org/> and she will pass along that information to J. Downing.

Mt. Major Snowmobile Club Membership- The Commission discussed the benefits of the Mt. Major Snowmobile Club and the many recreational opportunities they offer in Alton. R. Arsenault made a motion for the Commission to be a member for \$50, motion was seconded by E. Clark and passed.

Director's Report- The Commission reviewed the Director's Report as presented for November 2018. K. Troendle noted that the Grounds and Maintenance and Cemetery Department tasks will no longer be included in the Director report as instructed by the Town Administrator because those tasks are not under the purview of the Commission.

Alton Parks and Recreation Department Director's Report November 2018

- Jones Field Concession Stand and Shed delivery- *discussion that AYL Warrant Article will cover the cost of the bridge repairs. The Director did not have information about the fencing installation.*
- Quannippi Trail Signs- logistics
- Meeting with Budget Committee
- Meeting with Board of Selectmen
- Scheduling events for Light Up Night
- Revs United Basketball Program assistance
- Administrative Assistant position hiring logistics
- Park Inspections
- Filing/phone calls/email correspondence
- Computer software training
- Press Releases
- Purchased needed supplies for Department/Events
- Process Community Center Rentals

Other- K. Troendle noted that the Board of Selectmen is recommending a Public Works Department in 2019 with the expectation that the Public Works Director will oversee the Grounds and Maintenance and Cemetery Departments (budget, staff, facilities, tasks, etc.) instead of the Parks and

Recreation Director position. K. Troendle will update the Commission if that recommendation is approved.

Recreational Sports Programs- The Commission discussed getting feedback from coaches and families about their experience with the Revs United Sports Programs and to see if the partnership is working. The Commission is supportive of community recreation sports and want to provide positive opportunities for Alton residents. K. Troendle will seek out feedback on the programs.

Skating Party- E. Shelton asked to add Skating Party to the January meeting Agenda.

Public Input II (limited to 5 minutes per person on any Governmental/Town Business)

There was no public input.

Adjournment

E. Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm; motion was seconded by R. Arsenault and passed. **The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 6:30pm at the Pearson Road Community Center.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Kellie Troendle, Certified Park and Recreation Professional
Parks and Recreation Director*