

BILLINGS PARK COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes - Approved
29 June 2020
4 pm

Attendance

Billings Park Commissioners: Sam Segal, Randy Richardson, Alison Clarkson (Chair), Julian Underwood, Rebecca Williams, Don Wheeler
National Park Service Rivers & Trails: Jennifer Waite
Guests: Wendy Marrinan, Linda Smiddy, Bill Corson

1. We welcomed to Rebecca Williams the BPCommission. She has just been appointed by the Selectboard. And, she introduced herself.
2. Approval of Minutes from June 1st. Approved Unanimously.
3. To welcome and help orient Rebecca, Jennifer had circulated a brief history of the BPC and how it has been structured as a Town Commission for all the newer BPC members. This prompted a good discussion. Randy discussed how impressed he has been with the historical work of the BPC and opened the discussion about our constraints and opportunities moving forward. We discussed how, going forward, the BPC might manage adding more Parks and Trails as they are developed. Both the East End Park and the new River Walk have asked to come under the BPC umbrella. How does a volunteer board balance our roles as good stewards of the Parks with more assets to manage and maintain.
4. Randy provided an overview of the Woodstock River Walk Park. He presented the possibility of the Billings Park Commission assuming oversight of the park upon its completion. Randy formally communicated the Woodstock River Walk committee requested that the BPC, in the long-term, take over the care and oversight of the Woodstock River Walk.
Alison asked that Randy provide an estimate of expenses and maintenance needs.
5. **Discussion of the latest Draft from Maja Smith for the Mt Peg Summit Kiosk**
All comments should be communicated to Jennifer by July 1st.
6. **Update on Park Management Plan**
Alison reminded everyone that Redstart, the firm hired after an RFP last year, was hired to provide a Park Management Plan but what they have initially provided was more of a forestry management plan.
Jennifer discussed the categories of natural communities and ecology, forest resources, recreation aspects of the management Plan we had hoped to see.
Billings Park Commissioners should review the current plan and make recommendations that ensure that the plan matches the priorities for the parks.

7. Update on trail maintenance, Mt Peg Mowing Schedule & Invasives

Nick mowed the week of June 1st. It seems to be growing back. Do we need a more formal mowing schedule.

Don will reach out to Nick to about this.

8. Trail Maintenance – Peter Jensen submitted a request to the Faulkner Trust to finish the restoration of the Faulkner trail to the South Peak.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of created a formal overlook at the top of the North Peak.

Randy agreed to create a list of trail maintenance projects.

9. Developing a Budget for BPC

Alison and Sam will begin work on the Budget.

a. Discussion of the bill for the trees on Highland Ave Extension

The BPC has agreed to cost share the removal of the Harris's hazard trees with the Village. The town's portion comes from the Village Tree Care budget.

Sam: Move to spend \$1000 to mitigate the hazard trees on the Harris property.

Unanimously approved.

Don will create a policy regarding hazard trees.

10. Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm

11. Next meeting: July 20th 4:00