

**BILLINGS PARK COMMISSION**  
**Minutes- APPROVED**  
**17 August 2020**  
**4 pm**

In Attendance:

Billings Park Commission Members: Sam Segal, Randy Richardson, Alison Clarkson, Don Wheeler, Julian Underwood, Rebecca Williams

Woodstock Town Manager: Bill Kerbin

Woodstock Selectboard Member: Mary Riley

National Rivers and Trails: Jennifer Waite

Guests: Linda Smiddy, Wendy Marrinan

1. The Chair called the **meeting to order** at 4:06.

2. **Minutes** from 29 June 2020

A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes from 29 June 2020 by Julian Underwood

Discussion: Randy stated that he appreciated the minutes.

Motion accepted unanimously.

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

Don reported that Nick Mahood (Woodstock Resort Corp) is keeping up with the mowing and the plan is to mow the entire top part in the later fall. The WRC has generously agreed to continue to mow the paths and will subsidize 90% of the cost.

An invasive report was created and Alison will locate it and distribute it.

How can the BPC be more proactive and deliberate in its management of Invasives in the Parks it manages? Alison wondered if the Park had hired a replacement for Kyle Jones, another invasive species specialist?

**4. Update on Mt Peg Summit Kiosk**

A late fall installation for the kiosk can be expected.

Nick at the Woodstock Resort Corp will have some clarity about their ability to build the kiosk this fall. We hope to know soon.

**5. Update on Park Management Plan**

How do we hone the Park Management Plan? Is it worth it to create a sub-committee to process and hone it?

Can we partner with the Vermont Center for Ecological Studies to enhance the ecological portion of this?

The Park Management Plan produced by Redstart has an abundance of rich information about our resource. It seems light on the strategy section and needs to be revised in a way that it can be used to guide budgetary decisions.

Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning Project and the Wheeler Nature Park Plan are useful examples for revising our current Park Management Plan.

Randy communicated that while the ecological aspect is clear, the health benefits and economic elements are important to emphasize in this Plan.

Alison stated that it should do all these things that Randy mentioned and is used as a 10-year planning document.

Jennifer will loop back to Redstart to bulk up and revise the recommendation section and the public education section.

Sam expressed a worry that we might be asking Jennifer to do too much and the he can contribute to the recreation component.

## **6. Presentation of a draft 2020-21 Budget for BPC**

Alison presented the budget overview. She stated that many of the items are estimates at this point.

Should we beef up our section for trail maintenance?

Randy named his conflict of interest as a provider of trail maintenance services.

He stated there are a few ways to proceed with trail maintenance including contracting out, volunteer days, or a hybrid.

Julian complimented Alison and Sam for putting together the budget and observed a link between the items in the budget and the four stated goals of the BPC as written in the Mission Statement. If trail maintenance was increased it would appear as though each of the four goals is represented somewhat equally in the proposed budget.

## **7. Formation of a Strategic Planning sub-committee**

Alison asked Julian to discuss the idea of creating a sub-committee to discuss longer range strategic planning and develop questions that bring clarity to the scope of the BPC. Alison asked for Commission members who might be interested in being in this group email their interest.

## **8. New Business – there was none**

## **9. Next meeting**

**September 21<sup>st</sup> at 4 pm**