

Lamoine Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2017 (Draft – subject to correction)

Park Commission Chairman Cathi Goebel called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Present: Parks Commission members Cathi Goebel, Doug Jones, Jeff Cosulich, Maggie Andros, Paula Gardnier and Georgianna Pulver (alternate).

Minutes: Doug noted that Maggie had found an error in the minutes of the September 12, 2016. Concerning the discussion of Bloomfield Park issues, the remnants of a small meth lab were not found in the park as stated, but rather near the park on a snowmobile trail off of Asa's Lane. The September 12, 2016 meeting minutes were approved with this correction. Doug moved and Jeff seconded a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. **Vote in favor was 5 to 0.**

Business

1) Special Events Application: A special events application for the Lamoine Half Marathon at Lamoine Beach Park on March 4, 2017 was approved by the commissioners. **Vote in favor was 5 to 0.**

2) Bloomfield Park Issues: Discussion continued from the previous meeting concerning illegal activities and non-resident use at Bloomfield Park. Cathi reported that she had followed up on some of the concerns raised at that meeting.

Cathi noted that there is no restriction in the existing Lamoine Parks Ordinance prohibiting non-resident use of the park. She stated that prohibiting non-residents would require a change in the ordinance at town meeting. Cathi has talked to the Lamoine State Park about their sending people to the town park.

The need to get an idea of the number of people using the park and potential over-crowding was discussed. Park neighbors have complaints about the number of people using the park at times and the noise associated with large groups. To get an idea of the amount of use, a proposal to install traffic counters was discussed. Doug noted that these counters would only count the number of vehicles entering the park and not the actual number of people using it. Cathi will look into the feasibility of installing traffic counters at the park during the summer. The potential for water contamination of the pond due to the number dogs swimming at the beach was also discussed. Cathi noted that water testing is not required since the pond is not a public drinking supply, but it was decided to investigate what water testing might be appropriate to monitor this issue. Cathi will follow up with Stu Marckoon on this.

Park neighbors questioned what the park commission's vision for the long-term future of the park is. Through discussion, the commissioners explained that they were not in favor of expanding recreational opportunities and facilities at the park beyond what already exists or in promoting increased use. It was noted that a lot of park users probably find out about the park by word of mouth and that it would be hard to control that to limit user numbers.

Nighttime use of the park, which is prohibited, was also discussed. Park neighbors stated that during the summer months, a large number of noisy, late night parties occur in the park. Doug noted that this is a law enforcement issue and would need to be handled by a law enforcement agency such as the Hancock County Sheriff's office or the Maine State Police. Cathi stated that she has already been in touch with the sheriff's office about patrolling the area. Their response was that they do not have sufficient staffing to provide a patrol, but that park neighbors should notify them when there is a problem. Paula suggested that lighting the area might deter nighttime users. Maggie suggested that the area might be gated off at night but the commissioners could not identify who would be responsible for locking and unlocking the gate each day and felt that it would not be a practical solution at this time.

Drug activity, including drug dealing, at the park was also discussed. This is also a responsibility of the local law enforcement agencies. Cathi will contact Maine DEA about this activity. Park neighbors were encouraged to contact the sheriff's office any time there is such activity at the park to better inform the sheriff's office as to the frequency of activity. It was felt that if enough calls come in to the sheriff's office, they may make it an enforcement priority.

3) Proposed Park: Cathi reported on her December meeting with Conservation Commission Chairman Larry Libby and other interested parties concerning the proposed Mud Creek Road park. Larry is the lead on this project and has developed a specific design plan to present to the Board of Selectmen and at the annual town meeting in March. According to Jeff, the property currently is in the town's shoreland protected zone and would require a zoning change to the commercial and marine zone in order to allow for development of the site.

4) Marlboro Beach Park Land Acquisition: The Norris family, owner of the bulk of the Marlboro Beach shorefront, has offered to sell that land to the town for expansion of the existing park. The Board of Selectmen will be having an informational meeting concerning this on Thursday, January 12th. Maggie will represent the commissioners at this meeting.

5) 2017-2018 Budget: Cathi noted that only minor increases were made to the budget. Georgianna questions if the budget would require a significant increase if the Marlboro Beach property was acquired. The commissioners do not envision any significant increase in maintenance with the additional land and felt that at least for the coming fiscal year, the current budget proposal would be sufficient. Cathi noted that if the acquisition is approved at the coming town meeting, additional maintenance funds could be requested at that time if needed.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Lamoine Parks Commission will be on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business, Doug moved and Jeff seconded a motion to adjourn. **Vote in favor was 5 to 0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas C. Jones
Secretary, Lamoine Parks Commission