

Lamoine Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2017 (Final Draft – subject to correction)

Park Commission Chairman Cathi Goebel called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present: Parks Commission members Cathi Goebel, Doug Jones, Maggie Andros and Georgiana Pulver (alternate).

Minutes of April 10, 2017 Meeting

The minutes of the April 10, 2017 meeting were approved as written. Maggie proposed and Doug seconded a motion to accept the minutes as written. **Vote in favor was 4 to 0.**

Old Business

1) Lamoine Beach Playground Proposal: Cynthia Donaldson and Amy Duym from the Lamoine Little Children Group presented a preliminary proposal to the commission for the creation of a young children's playground at Lamoine Beach Park. Cynthia gave a brief background on the mission and history of the group. She stated that its purpose is to provide educational and play activities for the pre-school age children of Lamoine. The group was established by a town resolution adopted in 2013.

Cynthia explained that the group is interested in installing pirate ship themed playground equipment for small children at the park. Amy Duym presented information on a locally available wooden playground set that the group is considering. They also stated that the group may like to tie the creation of the playground into the town's 150th anniversary celebration, possibly as a fund-raising source.

The commission members felt the proposal has merit, but asked that the group return with a detailed proposal identifying the specific equipment to be installed and the purchase and installation costs for the equipment. The commission members identified three potential funding mechanisms for the project. The group could conduct a private fund-raising campaign; request funds directly from the town selectmen or request that the parks commission include it in the commission's annual budget proposal.

The commission did raise some issues and concerns with the proposal that would need to be researched and addressed by the group. Maggie noted the issue of liability and the need to provide for that. Doug suggested the group might want to consider playground equipment made out of a different material than wood. He noted that wood would not weather well in the saltwater environment of the park and that it might be prone to vandalism, especially arson. Doug also observed that the enclosed space within the ship hull might be a place for illegal drug activity by adults, a problem the commission is already wrestling with at Bloomfield Park. He suggested that the group look for commercial grade playground equipment made out of a different material and without enclosed spaces.

Cynthia and Amy agreed to address these issues and return to the commission at a future meeting with a specific proposal.

2) Bloomfield Park Issues: Cathi stated that commission member Jeff Cosulich had been contacted by town resident Carol Korty concerning water quality and overuse at the park.

The commissioner's discussion concerning water quality involved what the ultimate purpose and objective of the testing would be, how it would be carried out, if it would become on-going and what the commission could or would have to do if the water tests indicated an unhealthy situation. Cathi will contact Carol Korty and ask what exactly her concerns are and what she expects from the commission. Cathi will also discuss the issue with Stu on what actions the commission, as a part of the town government, would have to take if a water test came back as unhealthy.

The issue of potential overuse of the park has been discussed at length by the commission in previous meetings. The commissioners reviewed those concerns. Maggie also suggested that the park should be restricted to residents only and proposed that the commission determine the feelings of town residents concerning this possible restriction. Cathi noted that the parks ordinance does not allow the commission to restrict use and would have to be amended to allow for such restrictions. A brief discussion on how to enforce such a restriction followed and included the use of a permit system. The discussion also recognized the problem of how to enforce such a restriction. Doug suggested that since we don't have an actual count of park users, the first step in addressing this issue would be to install the trail camera recently purchased by the commission and use that to get an indication of use and potential overcrowding.

These discussions lead to a review of the illegal drug activity at the park. Cathi stated that she had been in contact with the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (Maine DEA) and made them aware of the activity. Doug noted that the best way to get the local and state law enforcement agencies involved in stopping this activity is for the park neighbors to call the Maine DEA hotline anytime they see this activity occurring. Only by developing a pattern of activity will these law enforcement agencies be willing to put their limited resource to work at the park.

3) Bloomfield Park Camera: Cathi informed the commission that the trail camera has been approved and she will ask Stu to order it, a security box and two SD memory cards. The commissioners agreed to work as a group to see that the camera is installed at park in the next few weeks.

4) Mud Creek Park: At the Lamoine Board of Selectmen's request, the commission reviewed the plan for the proposed park on the Mud Creek Road. The commission also reviewed the plan recommendations made by the Lamoine Conservation Commission in their June 23, 2017 e-mail to the selectmen.

The commissioners reviewed and agreed with the recommendations made by the conservation commission. They also discussed specific needs for the park. Georgianna noted the need for proper signage, including the highway approaches to the park. She also asked what would become of the current turnout located right at the end of the guard rail. Doug noted that this could be blocked off with large rocks and seeded with grass as part of the park construction. The potential need for a bathroom was also discussed and it was felt that a bathroom is not necessary at the site, might become a location for illegal drug activity and would substantially increase the

maintenance workload at the park. Trash pickup and a dog station were the only routine maintenance needs identified that the commission would be responsible for.

Cathi will send an e-mail to Stu stating the commission's support for the project and the conservation commission's recommendations.

Doug proposed and Maggie seconded a motion to recommend that the town move forward with proposed park plan. **Vote in favor was 4 to 0.**

New Business

There was no new business

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Lamoine Parks Commission will be on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business, Doug proposed and Cathi seconded a motion to adjourn. **Vote in favor was 4 to 0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas C. Jones
Secretary, Lamoine Parks Commission