

Final Draft of Harvard Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Monday January 23, 2017 @ 7:30 PM

Location: Volunteer Room/ Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm. A vote to approve the meeting minutes from 1/9 were postponed till our next meeting. All members were present.

Beach updates

Discussion of the Harvard Henley and highlights of Bare Hill Rowing Association (BHRA) program were offered from BHRA members Mallory Beckingham and Pam Erdos. Five event requests were presented and they are outlined in detail the attached exhibit.

Harvard Henley – Friday/Saturday April 21-22 (BH Pond)

Bare Hill Regatta – Saturday, May 20 (BH Pond)

Ergathon – Wednesday, May 31 (The Common) *may be tentative date

Summer Rowing – June 26 – August 18

Tour de Pond – Sunday, September 17 (BH Pond)

Wyona provided some additional background information for the board's newest member. These events have been successfully completed in years past and no changes are under consideration. Individual approval votes were considered and approved as follows:

Harvard Henley – Vote #1 Ed made motion to approve 4/21-22 date, seconded by Steve, Vote 5-0 in favor

Bare Hill Regatta – Vote #2 Ed made motion to approve 5/20 date, seconded by Frank, Vote 4-0 in favor (Doug abstaining)

Ergathon – Vote #3 Steve made motion to approve 5/31 date, seconded by Ed, Vote 5-0 in favor

Summer Rowing – No vote was required for summer rowing as license was secured

Tour de Pond – Vote #4 Ed made motion to approve 9/17 date, seconded by Steve, Vote 5-0 in favor

Boat lottery date discussion – Board discussion was centered on how to conduct this year's lottery.

Random selection, excel program, names in a hat were all identified as possibilities. Ed asked why we couldn't sell a small number of boat slots to highest bidder in an auction and lottery off the rest.

Interesting idea but would need legal counsel. Ed will explore the possibility. Pricing will be the same as last year. Doug suggested that we should get the word out – advertise.

2017 staffing search – Beach Director position pays \$23-\$25.00 per hour when job description was written. The Board needs to decide if we should have an open competition for the job. Straw vote taken and members were strongly in favor of creating a competitive review. Discussion planned to continue at next meeting.

Field updates - Doug advised that Elliot Stephenson's had followed up with him about his Eagle Scout Project. Doug received confirmation that the kickback structure would be an 8 foot structure and require a building permit. Will need to withstand 90 mph winds. Nothing new to report on Evan Bilafer's sign request for Waite Field. Doug also indicated that HAA Soccer President Andrew Thomas would like to address the commission. Steve Mirarchi, HAA Baseball/Softball has asked to be rescheduled for a future meeting due to a conflict tonight.

Budget updates – Frank reported that he had no new business to offer. Working to get ski club information correctly identified.

Parks and Rec Restructure Discussion- Our invitation to meet with the BOS originally scheduled for 1/17 has been rescheduled for 2/7/17. Stu Skylar and Ken Swanton came to the meeting and wanted to explain their interest in subject. Both clearly told us not to confuse the charter commission information requests with the offer to explore the adding of a Town of Harvard employee to be employed as a Parks & Rec administrator. Both suggested and offered to invite Tim Bragan to our next meeting (2/6) for him to share his vision of this possible position. We learned that Tim in his prior role in the Town of Shirley created a Recreation Director position. Board members again voiced concerns that have previously been outlined in Wyona's January 11th to BOS. Subjects that require further clarification include: loss of controls, command structure difference, strategic plan, employee management, defining community education efforts, revenue sources for position, job description, value of job, shared vision, specifics, and inclusive educational cooperative. The commission would like to have a better understanding of Judy Cavanaugh's current community education offerings.

New Business: Pam Morrison (Historical Commission) shared that a section of the stone wall at the corner of the Bromfield Driveway and Massachusetts Avenue had been damaged and she was trying to determine who could help fund its repair. Not sure when it was damaged. Best estimate was sometime between the Flea Market in October 16 and January 4, 2017 when it was reported. Police report being searched and she will contact Jack Spiro (Cemetery Commission) and possible Lion's Club for help.

New event requests: No new event requests

Next Meeting(s): After a short discussion it was agreed that the commission will meet on 2/6 and 2/13 to accommodate for a 2/7 appearance at the BOS meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was officially adjourned at 10:26pm.