

Harvard Charter Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Members Present: Paul Cohen (Chair), Peter Warren, Rick Maiore, Stephanie Opalka, George McKenna, Cindy Russo

The meeting was called to order at 7:08.

Discussion with Harvard Public Library (HPL) Board of Trustees

Attendees: Mary Wilson, Library Director; Marty Green, Pete Jackson, Gail Coolidge, Chris Frechette, Library Trustees

- Library must comply with Mass. General Laws for Libraries. HPL must work within the Bromfield Trustees (owners of building) lease structure (99 yrs.)
- Facilities—there is not enough money in town or library budget to maintain building to lease standards. Many building issues are being paid for from Trust funds.
- Communication between Town Hall and Library could be better. Issues around open/close policy and personnel decisions.
- Hiring is Mary's responsibility. Mary is hired by and reports to HPL Trustees.

Discussion with Pond Committee (Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee—BHPWMC)

Attendees: Bruce Leicher (Chair) and Connor O'Shea (student member)

- Interacts with Park and Rec, Cons Comm, Planning Board, Harbormaster, ZBA. Better communication between these committees needed. Perhaps a regular Land Use Chairs meeting? No enforcement available to BHPWMC—perhaps ZBA or Cons Comm? Relationships need to be formalized and BHPWMC role defined. Pond by-law?
- Appointed by Selectmen and regulated by Cons Comm. Difficulty in getting quorum, maybe 5 members instead of 7? Balanced pond abutter and non-abutter.
- Role of DPW in pond management---pump, beach.

Discussion with Park and Recreation

Attendees: Wyonna Lynch-McWhite, Doug Thornton

- Largest issue is staffing—people power on the commission. Elected members. Busiest times of year are Spring and Fall.

- Final Authority—approval of events and communication between P+R, BoS; --sandwich boards, many do not follow the policy posted on-line,--beach parking, no parking policy enforcement available and towing not realistic even if safety is an issue.
- Maintenance of facilities around recreation. Shortage of playing fields means constant use between schools and HAA. Maintenance of beach facilities, perhaps replacement of beach house.
- DPW mows fields and lines for games.
- Issue with revolving accounts during town's fiscal year-end.
- Staffing---maybe a community ed shared position?

Public Input

John Lee commented on Park and Rec discussion. Supports hiring a recreation director, says Park and Rec has limited support, scheduling of events/common use an issue, beach management. DPW does bare minimum, just mows and lines---does not rake or maintain parking lots, trails, etc.

Adjourned at 9:15.