

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE June 13, 2022- 7pm

Minutes of in person meeting

Attendance – New Board Liaison – Amy Peck, Bill Barnard, Becky Lenhard, New member – Michael Fraser, and Patti Stevens. *Roy did you attend this meeting?*

Approval of Minutes – [May Minutes](#) were approved.

Committee Membership and Officers – Patti shared that she would like to step down as chair at the end of August but would continue to serve the remaining year of her term in 2023. She asked anyone who was interested in becoming chair to let her know. The committee also needs a recording secretary to take minutes and keep the membership list up to date.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Bainbridge Playground – Status. Role/timing of subcommittee – no update.

Marine Activities Committee is interested in our ideas for improvements. Becky will share her report.

Kayak Racks have been installed at Swim & Racquet Club launch area. Debbie Donahue reported that 18 people called and put their names on the list for this amenity will be called in the coming week to see if they are still interested. If not a notice will go out through Ocean Pines news letting people know that there are open spaces.

Trail Improvement Project – Bill said that OP was not awarded the AARP grant. There were many more applicants than funds available. Once we know more about what trail improvements Public Works plans to address, we can consider applying for other grants And requesting volunteer assistance for trail work days.

The Environmental Committee shared results of the survey work that was done around Hidden Pond (near the Route 90 trail). The property platte was secured by OP Management. It would be necessary to have this if a loop around the trail were to be included in updated maps for that Trail. No one has been able to locate the kayak launch that a resident reported was on that pond.

Spring Events:

Bike Ride on May 21 – 55 people rode in the second Community Bike Ride to celebrate National Bike month. It was a very hot day. OP Fire and Rescue and Police Departments supported the route along with 6 volunteers including Steve Cohen, Michael Fraser, and Laura Scharle from our committee and Amy Peck, Board liaison.

Sunset Paddle was led by Laura Scharle on May 22 from Swim & Racquet Club. 12 people enjoyed the leisurely paddle out to the beach before the Route 90 bridge. All said they would like to do it again. Some said that others would have joined if rental kayaks had been available.

National Trails Day- Community walks were held on June 4 on the Robin Hood Trail led by Kathryn and Ralph Ferrusi and on the Route 90 Trail led by Bill Barnard. Participants provided good suggestions for improving signage on the trails, crosswalks where trails cross roads, and improving trail surfaces.

NEW BUSINESS

Blacktop area at Swim and Racquet Club – Ideas were discussed including shuffleboard or bocce courts, a bike safety route, outdoor ping pong tables with paddles available from the Swim Club or bring your own.

Kayak and SUP boards as a rental available at the S&R club was discussed based on the interest expressed at the Sunset Paddle.

These were proposed as topics for a future meeting when Debbie Donahue can attend.

The Backyard Bird Store in Ocean Pines is willing to host Birdwatch walks on the trails. Michael will talk to Maureen to determine best location and time of year/day for these.

Committee members were encouraged to participate in the June 21 Public Meeting about the Future Replacement or Expansion of the Route 90 Bridge. Including safe crossing for Bikes and Pedestrians in the plans would be of great benefit to OP.

NEXT MEETINGS - July 11 and Aug 8 - Check availability