

MINUTES

STOCKBRIDGE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Stockbridge Parks and Recreation Commission was held on September 27, 2021 at 3:00 PM at the town beach in Stockbridge. Present were Steve Knopf, Nicole Fairaux, Nick Fredsall, Michael Canales, Hugh Page

Discuss of schematic plan for beach parking and driveway redo:

Michael brings up that 11 trees need to be cut down and we need a tree hearing with the tree warden. A meeting with the tree warden is set for October 14.

- Reasoning for plan cutting trees and moving driveway:
 - o Safety and function entering and exiting the property
 - o Adding 30 (dedicated parking spots) 10-15 (informal overflow spots) with a more directive functional parking lot and vehicle circulation.
 - o Assertive management of drainage and water
 - o An aesthetic appeal from road and on arriving and departing
 - o An accessible bath house, beach with handicapped parking(future phase)
 - o Be environmentally responsible in design choices and decisions saving all quality and mature trees possible limit work in buffer zones etc.

Hugh Says that work should commence after the first frost which will be the last of the growth season. Asks how much money we have for the project, Michael says about \$55,000 from the town warrant plus \$18,000 from SBA give or take.

Kayaks must be removed by Oct 12, after Columbus Day for the work on the parking lot to start.

Final decision on moving kayak racks:

There has been much debate about weather the racks should be removed entirely and an alternative “bike rack” type system set up on Lake drive. Objections to keeping the racks at the town beach include that there should not be boats going down to the beach and in the swimming area with little kids, there is liability with having there, and its a hassle having to manage them. Also a lot of upset people who don’t get racks or complain that their racks are unusable. Pros are that people really like them, especially people living in Mahkeenac Heights, Nick and Michael both bring up that its the town’s responsibility to look after the greater good for the towns people as a whole and not just one group.

The decision has been made to relocate the racks to the upper park of the grassy area at the town beach and create a path that will go to the water where the kayak racks are currently located. The dock and platform system currently being stored at the Park Street canoe launch will be moved to the beach and used for the boats. The boat launch hasn't been used for the past two years due to low water levels in 2020 and too high water levels and flooding in 2021. The town will look into installing steps in replace of the launch, Hugh has granite blocks that he may be able to use. This plan will still have to be approved by the Conservation commission because it will involve cutting some vegetation.

The committee discussed hiring a Parks and Rec employee to do park and beach maintenance and management. This employee would ideally be hired under the supervision on Hugh at the highway department. Ideally a full-time year round position. Mike and High both agree that there is plenty of work to be done relating to parks and rec that this would make sense. We would need to get the money to pay the salary plus benefits approved by the finance committee and/or select board.

A couple of items need to be purchased: No diving signs, no swimming signs, and a piece of playground equipment to replace the meri-go-round at Averic park.

Finally, the committee agreed to ask for a new special article for Foresight to survey do plans to improve the swimming and sand area at the beach.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Fairaux