

Camp Denison Committee

March 21, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Smokey's Den, Camp Denison

Meeting Opened: 7:03 pm

Attendance: (x indicates attendance)

x	Jim Lacey, Chair	x	Bob Gorton, Member	x	Jack LoCicero, Member
x	Chris Roop, Clerk		George Langlais, Member	x	Ella Richardson, Member
	Kim Therrien, Member				
x	Don Anderson, Camp Manager		Bob Apprich, Consultant		Kim Dowling, Consultant

Guests: Don Watson, Jim Saunders, Stu Scranton

Minutes Approval: February 14, 2017 minutes approved as written.

Discussion and Motions:

1. Camp Manager's Report

- The renewed implementation of the leash law has generally gone well. There are still a few people who do not comply and are notified when seen. If there are chronic abusers, they will be reported to the police.
- The snow blower has died and needed to be disposed. Don will investigate replacements and report back.
- The camp survived the March 14th blizzard, though there were a number of trees down and lots of branches. Don has contacted three scout groups to organize a camping weekend work event where they would clean up and burn the windfall. The weekend of April 7-9 has been set-aside for that activity.
- The water will need to be turned on and outdoor bathroom opened prior to April 7th to accommodate the scout weekend.
- There was a discussion about the future of the painting that used to hang in the bathroom of the lodge. It was discovered that it is worth \$1,000 to \$1,500 due to its historical significance. It needs to be professionally cleaned and we will look to have it displayed in Town Hall or the Library.
- Don obtained an estimate for replacing the roof of the lodge. It came in at \$16,200. The work will need to be prioritized and will probably need to be split into phases. The roof over the Mess Hall is in the worst shape.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Fiscal year to date expenses are \$24,473 and revenues \$18,166.
- The busy season is just about to start and bookings are strong.
- After a reserve of \$1,500, to be available for refunds due to cancelations, there is \$13,220 available in the revolving account.
- The "Friends" accounts have a balance of \$21,834, with over \$12,000 of Raffle proceeds. Unallocated funds available are just over \$1,000.

3. New business:

- Major Project Priorities
 - The bath house project is steadily moving toward completion, but still requires significant work. Even so, we need to look ahead to what the next projects we tackle will be. Depending on the number of volunteers we have we may be able to have more than one project running at a time.
 - Projects that improve the facilities and make them more appealing for clients should be at the top of the list.
 - The building and installation of the dock is the top priority. The draft license from the Mass DEP has been issued and the final license will be issued by early April. Hardware has been procured and lumber will be purchased when we are able to start the construction.
 - Improvements to the Nature Center need to be done to make the building more useful. Adding a bathroom would be the most useful. Installing an incinerating (propane powered) toilet would eliminate the need for connecting to a septic system. We also need to look into a gray water system for the kitchen and bathroom sinks. Jim Lacey will investigate both toilet and gray water systems.
 - Lighting for the bridge was not completed as part of the small parking lot lighting. Stu Scranton will set-up a pilot system using battery powered, low voltage LED light. It will be motion sensing and only come on when it is dark. A budget of up to \$75 was approved.
 - As mentioned in the Camp Manager's report, the lodge roof is in need of repair. This will be contracted out. Laying out a phased approach to the work will allow us to start on the Mess Hall and continue with other sections as money is available. It is likely to take a few years to complete all phases. Jack L commented that we should get galvanized, rather than aluminum, drip edge since it will be sturdier and match the other buildings.
- Planning Equipment Purchase Priorities
 - We need to look at what capital equipment purchases should be made in the near term so we can determine a budget for the equipment.
 - A new snow blower is at the top of the list since we are now without one. End of season pricing should help in keeping the cost down. Don Anderson will investigate.
 - We are currently using Jim Lacey's personal log splitter and will need to return it soon. There will always be a need for a splitter. This is # 2 on the list. Options based on the type of splitting we do need to be investigated and priced.
 - Jack L has recommended getting a small Kubota tractor sized for the work at the camp and appropriate attachments to facilitate the work to be done. This is likely to be a major expense so we should look into various options such as lease to purchase or shared use with the highway department before making a final determination of cost and feasibility.
- Managing equipment maintenance
 - Camp up-keep is always a challenge and we have collected a variety of maintenance equipment. To maximize its usefulness and lifespan we need to provide routine maintenance in addition to timely repairs when there are issues.

- We need to set-up routine service based on the type of equipment and manufacturer guidelines. For the more complex equipment, this will mean establishing agreements with service providers.
 - We need a volunteer at the camp to take over the management of this program, to maintain the equipment inventory and maintenance histories. They don't need to be capable of doing the work, but being mechanically inclined would be a significant asset.
 - Don Anderson will check with Dave Schauer of Dave's Blades to discuss options for service programs.
 - On a related note, Stu Scranton has added a ball to the Saber tractor so we are able to pull either of the trailers we have with that tractor.
4. Old business
- Easter Egg Hunt – April 15th
 - Don Watson gave an update on the sixth annual event and distributed a flyer for distribution in the schools. Flyers should be delivered by April 1st.
 - Some changes need be made to the procedures for hiding the eggs.
 - The eggs are ready, while there are still a few prizes that still need to be purchased.
 - Donations have been collected totaling about \$425.
 - Raffle update – August 19th
 - There are now 35 door prizes which means that every 6th ticket drawn will be a winner of either cash or a prize.
 - A discussion of the flyer to be sent out with the electric bills raised the question of whether any sort of “open house” type activity on the afternoon of the Raffle should be mentioned. The question was taken under advisement.
 - Bob Gorton raised the point about determining what type of lighting should be obtained for the large parking lot. There are a number of options, and town departments with that type of equipment should be contacted to see if we can borrow it for the night before looking at rental equipment.

Meeting adjourned: 8:25 pm

Scheduled Committee Meetings: 2017: 4/11, 5/9, 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14, 12/12