



City of Auburn, Maine

Recreation Department

Jeremy Gatcomb, Director

48 Pettengill Park Road | Auburn, Maine 04210

www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 4:30pm

Members Present: Jeremy Gatcomb, Misty Edgecomb, Paula Curtis-Everett and Haley Warden

Absent: Tim Cogle, Scott Holland, and Dawna LaBonte

Meeting Minutes: Minutes for November were approved – Haley/Misty; all in favor unanimous.

Department Update:

- **Department Updates** – Dawna was not present, she will be introduced next month
- **Winter Programming** – Youth basketball started Sunday the 11th that is full (Park Ave and Walton gyms are being used). Adult basketball is up and running, cheering is practicing all winter.
- **Winter Fest** – Jeremy said that he asked Brian Wood, but he wasn't sure exactly what was happening with Winterfest if it would go to the Downtown Coordinator or not. He explained that last year the city did not run anything but made the map to show the community things that were happening throughout the city. Paula said that she is on the Land Trust Board and that they wanted to do snow shoeing at Sherwood or Mt Apatite. The group will reach out to Rick to ask him who was taking care of the Friends for Mt Apatite, since Rick has stepped down that group needs a new chair as well.
- **New Business** - This board moving forward- What is the plan? There are currently three vacancies. Misty said that there is still good movement with the group. Tim will be back in January and maybe with Dawna coming on she has more people that would be interested. Misty said that maybe every month the committee could discuss one park and talk about what the goal is for that park and if it is meeting it's potential (could things be added to certain parks etc.).
- **PAL** – Jeremy told the committee that the design of the new PAL will be changed and not have the large windows that were originally planned. Haley said that she was going to have her children's librarian reach out to Kayla about an after-school story time for the kids.
- **Grab N' Go** – Still over 200 households that are being served (Auburn residents). CDBG (community Development Block Grant) has funded for this program for the last couple of years, this funding will be ending June '23. CDBG is looking for a community partner to take it over. Jeremy said that a lot of the programs that were run out of PAL were put aside because of the Grab N' Go program but when the funding ends the hope is to start them back up again. There will also need to be more staff hired for the new PAL building.

Work in Progress:

- **Tot Lot** –Misty has the Food Forrest RFP completed and has sent it to Liz for assistance. Hopefully that will get submitted soon.



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- **Lake Grove Beach** – The playground is 95% completed. The woodchips are hopefully going in 12/15/22. The ADA walkway and poured in place walking path will have to be built in the spring.
- **PAL** – Jeremy said that Thanksgiving went very well and that it was a HUGE success. He said he believes there were over 200 people served. 14 turkeys were cooked and picked up by 2:00 the day before Thanksgiving. The Auburn Exchange Club and other volunteers went in on Thanksgiving morning. Food was finished and portioned out then meals were delivered to the families. The group was finished by 11:00AM. Christmas will be for the PAL families but will also be a Toys for Tot's location so others can put in requests. As of Wednesday night, there were 180 kids signed up. The seniors have donated a good number of items that will be wrapped and distributed to the families. Misty said that next year she would love to have a virtual giving tree and partner with the PAL.
- **Mt. Apatite** – Jeremy will possibly be taking that over in his new position. There was left over funding from the FY22 CIP that will carry over to next year for additional work to be done.
- **LWCF** – Still working on redoing the tennis courts behind the East Auburn School and they will also be pickleball courts.
- **Playground Projects** – The playground projects were not all completed because of the weather (grounds started to freeze unable to finish). Equipment has been taken back to PW for storage. Jeremy is working with Scott and Denis on what playgrounds can get funded for next FY (Bonney and Raymond Parks should be completed for sure).
- **Subdivision Projects** – No updates
- **Conservation Commission Updates** – no updates
- **Community Center Auburn** – Paula asked what was happening (North Auburn Road), she thinks that it should sit with the Conservation Commission. Jeremy said that Phil or Brian would be best to ask what is happening with it. Misty asked about the pump track and Jeremy said that there has been no movement on that.

Meeting was adjourned, Paula/Misty; all in favor unanimous

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 11, 2023 – 4:30 pm and the Auburn Community Senior Center.