



City of Auburn, Maine

Recreation Department

Sabrina Best, Director

48 Pettengill Park Road | Auburn, Maine 04210

www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 6:30pm via ZOOM

Members Present: Sabrina Best, Rick Martel, Misty Edgecomb, Paula Curtis-Everett, Haley Warden, Suzanne Roy **ABSENT:** Tim Cogle and Mike Thurston

Meeting Minutes: November - Haley/Paula; all in favor.

Department Update - Sabrina provided an update on winter programs highlighting the return of in person senior programming coming in March. Summer programming is being planned now and the hopes is to be using the new registration system for those programs.

Work in Progress:

- **Tot Lot workgroup** – Haley provided an update on the first meeting which provided great discussion on ideas and options for the venue. Next meeting will be held in March and include other potential stakeholders and representatives from the Water District and Watershed Protection.
- **Municipal Beach** – Suzanne is still working on recruiting members and is making good progress. The first meeting will be put together once Suzanne has the group finalized and develops a to do list.
- **Festival Plaza workgroup** – Sabrina reported there was a meeting with City Staff and an engineering firm to begin talks on a design and cost estimates. Hoping to have a rough draft of potential redesign by the March meeting.
- **Mt. Apatite** – Rick provided an update highlighting the Winterfest Hike the group sponsored. New map signs were put out along major trails, received positive feedback. Next is to update the paper map and online version with the updated trail map. There was some work done on clear cutting the parking lot expansion area on Small Rd. There was a suggestion for trail upgrades along the Blue loop.
- **Auburn Suburban** – Sabrina provided an update that the Auburn Suburban board is working on securing the permits and discussing how best to handle fundraising efforts.
- **PAL** – Nothing to report at this time.
- **Committees on Committees** – Misty met with Assistant City Manager Brian Wood on the new structure for committees. The Parks and Recreation Board would fall under 'Community' along with Age Friendly. The chairs of those two committees would meet



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with City staff and 2 council reps to discuss board efforts, goals, ongoing work etc. There was some discussion around why Conservation Commission was not included under Community.

New Business:

- **River, Dam, and Boat Launch Work** – Paula discussed the recent efforts being made by local advocates, Peter Rubins leading the charge, around the reclassification of the Dam to help increase water recreation along the Androscoggin River. There was interest to learn more about this effort and possibly invite Peter to speak at the next meeting.
- **July Storywalk** – Sabrina recommended the board look to sponsor the July Storywalk in honor of July being National Parks and Recreation Month. Variety of options were discussed with nothing formal being decided, the board will commit to sponsoring July's Storywalk and will discuss at future meetings content.

Other Business:

- Rick requested we add to future agenda's 'New Subdivision Development's' and check in with Economic Development staff to make sure we are kept in the loop on any new or future developments that require green/open space. Sabrina will check in with staff to see if there are any updates.

Meeting was adjourned, Rick/Suzanne; all in favor unanimous.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday March 10 at 6:30pm via Zoom.