

Parks Committee Meeting June 21, 2010

James Rossol called the regular monthly Parks Committee meeting to order at 6:00PM in the meeting room at the Town Hall. Present were James Rossol, Michael Meulemans, Michael LeClair, Patrick Keehan, Sean Moroney, Barbara Anschutz, Douglas Smith and 7 visitors.

Clerk verified posting. Motion made/second Jim/Mike M. to accept the agenda. Carried.

Accept minutes – Motion made/second Mike M./Mike L. to accept the minutes. Carried.

Citizen input – None.

William Marks – Consideration of request to establish a Town tennis court and accept donation of tennis equipment – Mr. Marks was not in attendance.

Jo Davis – Consideration of request to establish Bocce Ball court, Shuffleboard court and horseshoes at School Park – Since the park isn't used that much, she was thinking about installing some of these features. She would just like the Committee to consider some of these ideas. There may be rules pertaining to parking spaces, so the Rec. Park may be a more logical spot. She also suggested the Town consider a tree/branch chipping/compost service. Jim has always felt that School Park was underutilized. People may not even realize it's actually a park. Jim explained that signs are being budgeted for on a rotating basis, and it might be a logical choice to install a sign there next. Jim would like to see something like what Jo is suggesting installed at the park. Parking could be put in, or people could just park on the side street. Mike M. expressed concerns about the parking due to width of the road. Barb explained that the right-of-way gets very narrow towards there. Annie Peil stated she has a resolution stating it should be a green space forever. Barb had a copy of it. It's Resolution 1-96 and it states, "The Town Board of the Town of Baileys Harbor hereby declares this piece of property as green space and it should remain as a green space area and/or future use as a park area for the Town of Baileys Harbor." Park area is not defined. Barb thinks it was intended to remain as a green space. A Bocce Ball court is 76' long by 13' wide. It can be just a grassy area with a board around the edge. Horseshoes would just be a little sand pit. Shuffleboard would take about the same area as Bocce ball. Mike M. feels these activities would be a better fit at the Rec. Park, since that's already a sports complex of sorts. Pat agreed. Mike M. feels there's more room available there, plus there's more parking. The other issue would be people playing horseshoes at 1AM in School Park may disturb the neighbors. Jim lived near a basketball court and there were occasional late night/early morning players, but he dialed 911. Jim doesn't feel there is a problem with the size of the space, so it could probably accommodate something that is only 13' feet wide. He feels parking would be a consideration, but there may not need to be many cars parked there. He also feels there's plenty of room at the Rec. Park. Jo mentioned the equipment could be stored easier at the Rec. Park as well. Pat stated it would have to be under lock & key, but then a concern would be how people would be able to access it. Mike M. suggested that it could be a situation where the Town provides the space/area, but the people would have to provide their own equipment.

The two issues we have are do we want to have these activities and, if so, where would they go? Jim feels they would be a nice addition to the Town. Pat's concern about horseshoes at the Rec. Park would be kids running into the pegs. The post might be designed to just pull up and just lay it down. Jo explained that the recent ones she has seen have covers for the entire thing. Barb thinks one of the tasks the Parks Committee has to address is the vacant land by the Rec. Park and come up with some sort of plan for it. Jim feels that's a good idea and it should be made a project at some point down the

road, perhaps during the winter. At that point, the Committee may be able to incorporate some of Jo's ideas. As for the composting site, since it wasn't an agenda item, Barb will place it on the Town Board agenda for July.

Stein Gabrielson – Consideration of request to install a water sports rental facility at Anclam Park – Stein thanked the Committee for the Anclam Park plans and gave a little background about himself. He feels the harbor is underutilized. If we had an ability to teach water sports and rent water sports equipment, the Town would become more of a destination. He also feels it would be good for the kids to learn how to do some of these sports. When the kite boarders are out there now, a lot of people stop to watch. As for the kinds of equipment, there are surfing sports, such as large surfboards, kite surfing, etc. If there are no waves, they could be pulled on a motorboat. Stein explained he's been doing some of this stuff for free, but he needs to run a business now. He feels this has a lot of potential and would generate a small amount of income for the town, with the concession license. He's thinking surf sports, kayaks, small boats, bicycles, chairs and even a small skateboard ramp. Mike M. asked where the motorboat would be located. Stein explained it would be stored at the Marina. Mike M. asked why the business wouldn't then be located at the Marina. Stein wasn't sure of the technicalities of it yet. He doesn't have all the details yet, but just wanted to let the Committee know what he was thinking and if the Committee liked the idea, he would come with a more formal plan. Jim explained that one thing that gets him thinking is that it's a commercial entity on public property. It makes him think that the Marina is more appropriate for the commercial end of it. Stein explained there are other areas along the ocean coast that offer concession licenses to people. One of Mike M's concerns is the number of parking stalls. There would be the normal people, business owners/employees, and business customers all parking there. Another of his concerns is how liability comes into play. Jim explained another big issue has to do with the high water mark. Originally, they were considering a gazebo for the plan that was going to be very green, but the DNR said absolutely not. They then tried moving it back, but that didn't fly either. Jim just isn't sure if housing equipment is going to work. Stein thanked the Committee for listening.

Citizen input – Carol Williams likes the kite boarders there, but families end up using her property. If it would become commercial, she feels that would eliminate a lot of families. It's also not a good spot to be using a boat. Gordon Rowley shares some of Carol's concerns. He has seen some partnership concessions in Florida, but he supports many of the questions the Committee raised. When a kite boarder is in motion, they take up 6 times the square area as a wind surfer. Any person in that area is at risk. The lines are lethal and serious injuries do occur. He's not saying it's a poor sport, but he's not sure if Anclam is big enough to accommodate all of the activity. If there's not sufficient separation, then the liability issues become very important. Jim feels there may be liability anyway, by just allowing the kite boarders to be there. Gordon feels if the beach suddenly had someone being taught, there should be a rescue vehicle. Also, if motor water sports become involved, that leads to issues of fuel and how to get them in and out. It also introduces a noise factor. Jim feels these are all very good points.

Loren Peil spoke. He agrees with Gordon. There can be 2 or 3 kite boarders that take up the whole beach. Also, they don't keep their dogs on leashes.

Carol Williams said there was a jet ski that hit a rock because it was so shallow. The summer before, there was a family bringing their kids down to Anclam Beach and Stein walked over to them. Carol walked over to the people and asked them what he said. He had told them it was a very bad beach and to go to the other one.

Gordon explained that Sister Bay now has a specific silent craft launch area as far away from the swimming area as possible. We should look into what fits and doesn't fit.

Jim explained that designed into the plan, there is a portable pier at the end of the jetty to launch kayaks. We have a very nice plan, but no rules for the new park. Once the plan is approved, we will have to have some more thought process as to what we're going to allow and not allow. Gordon appreciates the park moving forward with caution. Jim stated we want a family friendly park that everyone can enjoy, just not one specific group.

Accept Treasurer's report – The playground balance is because of the transfer for the playground equipment. Reinder's bill was fertilizer. New trash can lids were purchased out of the repair/maintenance account. Motion made/second Mike M./Jim to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Carried. Barb also created an updated spreadsheet for purchases. As for the playground equipment, there are no state statutes or specifications as to how it should be set up.

Update on Anclam Park sign regarding problems with slide-ins – Jim spoke with Brian at Beacon Athletics and explained the problems with the sliders. They slid in hard and were almost impossible to get out. A pliers needed to be used, which puts a white mark on it, and if you pull hard enough, the slider disintegrates. Brian told Jim they don't do a lot of signs with sliders. After talking, they determined it was the width of the slider and not the thickness. Jim suggested some kind of bolt mechanism. Brian was going to talk with his engineering people. Jim is hoping there will be no cost for the new design.

Discussion on establishment of Bulkhead Line Ordinance – John Meredith sent Jim an email stating the DNR is waiting for the bulkhead line survey and ordinance. The bulkhead line ordinance is needed because the Town wants to do work below the high water mark, which requires a lease of the lake bed. The ordinance simply states the Town is willing to pay for the lease. Once it is in place, the Town can do a host of beach improvements without having to go through the typical permitting process. Jim is thinking the lease amount is small. The engineer is working on doing the survey. After that, the Town attorney will review the ordinance for approval by the Town Board.

Update on Rec. Park – Things are moving slowly on the storage shed due to the wet weather. Clerk asked about some minor vandalism reported by the maintenance staff. No one was aware of anything.

Recommendations for next month's agenda/possibly change date of next month's meeting – Town Board meeting is being pushed to the third Monday at 7PM. Committee felt they could keep the meeting to an hour. We will talk about the bulkhead line a little more. We'll have another update on the Anclam Park sign, as well as any updates on the Rec. Park.

Motion made/second Jim/Mike M. to adjourn at 6:55PM. Carried.

These minutes are subject to correction at the next regular monthly Parks Committee meeting.

Douglas Smith
Town Clerk