

## Approved Minutes

### Swasey Parkway Minutes July 18, 2017

Novak Room

Trustees present: Mark Damsel, Florence Ruffner, Gerry Hamel

Also present: Ellie Willis, Bruce Jones, Scott Ruffner, Ben Anderson, Angela Green, Kathy Corson, and Beth Dupell

Meeting called to order at 8:30am and Chair Mark Damsell said he did not prepare an agenda and he would not be participating in the meeting.

Ellie Willis and Scott Ruffner are inquiring about their previous application through arts non-profit TEAM for a Wednesday concert series in July which was never voted on, and also about their newer application that was submitted weeks ago for a concert series on Thursdays in September. Gerry states Scott was told that there were too many road closures in July already and TEAM was asked if they could do two in July and two in August. TEAM said they cannot split them up.

Gerry said bids have gone out for the upcoming construction project and he doesn't want to approve any new applications until more information comes in, and that the Board of Selectmen have advised to not issue any more permits at this time. Scott Ruffner points out that the parkway is already closed for the farmer's market. Gerry and Florence both voice that they have no issue with the concert series, Gerry said if approved by the Seacoast Growers and the contractor. Mark replies "no comment". Ellie Willis inquires if the application can be accepted with a contingency based on the further information regarding equipment set up. Scott Ruffner follows up with questions about guidance for next steps and how they will be notified in order to plan the concerts.

Ellie Willis asks about the application process and if there is any protocol or records kept for which groups are allowed into the park and the number of events each has. Gerry responds that 80% of the events occur regularly from groups like Parks & Rec and The Chamber of Commerce. Ellie suggests a more democratic public conversation about programming and process for applications. Florence suggests applications are forwarded to all Park Trustees when they are submitted.

Bruce Jones brings up concern with Portsmouth's Prescott Park Arts Festival non-profit organization hosting a fundraising event in the Exeter Parkway.

Kathy Corson's application for a wedding in the parkway was submitted and Florence made a motion to approve the application and Gerry second the motion. All were in favor.

Mark Damsel discusses a memorial bench that is being installed. Florence requests that a proper application process for bench donations is implemented. Gerry agrees that the park is reaching a point of having enough benches.

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Discussion about the dead tree removed from the park on 6/30/17 by Public Works.

Florence asks about having her name added to the bank account replacing the previous trustee.

### Public Comment

Beth Dupell asks about status of when applications will be considered for 2018. Gerry indicates that it may be March before they are looked at. Mark offers it may be dependent on the weather effecting the construction. Beth also asks if the HERON group can “pass the hat” for donations at movie nights in August. All trustees agree a donation box is ok, but not approaching guests.

Ben Anderson of the Prescott Park Arts Festival commented that the trustees are doing an excellent job of spreading out the various uses of the parkway.

John Ring is disappointed that the pine tree was cut down in the parkway. Gerry and Florence pointed out that the tree was dead and needed to come down. Mark offers that the tree was not dead, it just had a disease, and that a 6 year old boy was devastated that his favorite tree was cut down. Mark says it was a slap in the face that he was not notified of the pine tree removal. Florence asks if the disease was something the tree could survive, Mark said probably not.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.