



Park & Recreation Committees

Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 12, 2024 at 3:00 PM at Chilmark Town Hall Select Board Meeting Room

Present: Julianna Flanders (Chair), Andrew Goldman, Jim Malkin, Jane Slater, Carolyn Stoeber (staff)

Others: Debby Packer, John Larsen, Betty Martin Wlodyka, Walter Wlodyka, Marshall Carroll, Lev Wlodyka

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm by Julianna Flanders.

An update on the lease information collected to date was discussed. Not all the information needed has been received. Email and cell phone contacts for lease holders would be helpful.

Deb Packer voiced her concerns about events from 2012 - 2017 at the Menemsha Market regarding the list of approved products. She felt the approved items were overlapping with grocery items and cutting into her market share. She expressed that she would like to see a renewed effort in Menemsha to be neighborly.

The Committee clarified their jurisdiction of sales items only applied to the retail lease lots and not elsewhere in Menemsha or in Chilmark, members of the committee do go around to make sure there is compliance with the list, and that the list is reviewed each year. The Committee understand her point of view that Menemsha is a small community and emphasized that is the reason the list of items is reviewed annually. The committee reiterated that the lists will be reviewed at a future meeting when notification has been made to all store owners. The Committee suggested that all the Menemsha business owners could have a meeting to discuss the topic of what is being sold.

Marshall Carroll proposed 1.5 foot setbacks for each of the lease lots to ensure emergency access between the lots. The Committee confirmed that are three 10-foot alleys and that as leases are changed over, the setbacks are scheduled to be reviewed. Jane Slater related a rescue story from a boat on fire at the gas dock, when the alley access was critical.

The Wlodykas presented a letter to the Committee expressing their family's three-generation interest in fishing and elaborated on the contents. The letter also recounts the discontinuation of their lease in the 1980s. The Wlodykas explained the loss of their lease lot for the

Harbormaster shack in the 1980s and requested to be considered for the next available lot. John Larsen, as a previous Park & Rec member during the 1980s, was able to add some history and context for the Wlodykas' request. The town began using half the lot for the harbormaster, but the other half was to remain available for a fisherman. Since then, the harbormaster has expanded their presence and the other half of the lot was lost. Mr. Larsen recalled that the Wlodykas applied to add a building to sell Betty's paintings on that half of the lot. Research in the Park & Rec minutes and records will look for when and how the Wlodykas' lease was not renewed.

Mr. Larsen will investigate to provide any records from his tenure and Wlodykas will continue research on their end.

When a new lot opens up, an ad is included in the newspaper, notice is posted, interested applicants fill out a form available from the Park & Rec, and apply to the Park & Rec. The Committee reviews the applications and recommends a new lease holder to the Select Board. Unless something is in writing, the Park & Rec is unwilling to set aside this application process.

Betty Wlodyka observed that the tourist cars on the West Dock make working in the area challenging. The committee advised the Wlodykas to go write a letter to the Select Board with about restricting the traffic on the West Dock, which is under the jurisdiction of the Harbormaster.

The Wlodykas mentioned the importance of the Menemsha water source and its protection.

The Committee will be scheduling visioning for the future to decide if the Town's parks will again be part of the jurisdiction of Park & Rec and make sure the description of the committee is accurate.

Action: A motion made and seconded to write a letter to the VTA in support of the VTA extending their schedule to accommodate the workers in Menemsha and fisherman to be able to park at the Town Lot.

The bus will enable workers to park off-site, reducing congestion and freeing up parking in Menemsha. A question was raised about how to encourage use of the service and whether the bus should be free to employees working in Menemsha.

Documents reviewed: letter from Wlodykas

Next Meeting: February 9, 2024 at 3pm

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carolyn Stoeber