

Crystal Pond Park Commission

Minutes from September 2, 2020 Meeting

Location: Crystal Pond Park, 6 pm

Submitted by David Barlow, Chairman

Members present: David Barlow, Chuck Lee, Chris Mayhew, Rick Torgeson, Jim Trowbridge, Brian Griffin, Dave Mullen, and Bill Bradley

Members absent: Beach Baywood and Paul Oleszewski

1. **Called to order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm
2. **Citizen participation:** None present
3. **Minutes from July 1, 2020 meeting:** Motion by Torgeson to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Griffin. Passed unanimously. (The regular CPPC meeting scheduled for August 1, 2020 was cancelled due to the aftermath of Hurricane Isaias.)
4. **Financial report:** Will be presented at the next CPPC meeting.
5. **Rental update:** Rental events which occurred since the last meeting included: Billy Mac Memorial Disc Golf Tournament – July 12th; Private wedding – July 18th; Private party – July 26th; Private party – August 1st; Meeting of Crystal Pond Association – August 1st; Private wedding – Aug 16th. Griffin presented our upcoming events which will include: Private use of the Disc Golf Course – September 19th (Mayhew will coordinate). Private wedding – Oct 31st. Griffin and Mullen also spoke about the need to simplify the security deposit return process. A discussion regarding security deposits, insurance issues, rental fees, quiet time, etc. was postponed until our next meeting.
6. **Maintenance and management:**
 - a. **Park Use:** The Park was closed on July 4 & 5 due to Selectmen's orders regarding COVID-19 mitigation. One of the "Beach Closed to Swimming" signs, along with a "No Life Guard on Duty" sign were taken by vandals. The remaining "Beach Closed to Swimming" sign will stay up for the foreseeable future, and the Port-a-Potties will remained locked, per order of the Selectmen.
 - b. **Storm Damage:** Prior to the storm, Trowbridge and Barlow smoothed out the ruts in the main driveway. Hurricane Isaias brought down leaves and small branches along the drive and around the Dining Hall. These were cleaned up prior to an upcoming wedding rental. The storm also brought down a limb and wire to the Dining Hall. This was repaired by Eversource. It also caused two trees to fall and sever the wire to the Arts & Crafts Building. The CPPC will discuss whether we should repair the overhead wire or trench and put it underground. Cost estimates for each plan will be obtained for future review and decision.
 - c. **Old Connecticut Path Trail Signs:** CPPC completed the promised trailhead sign and five smaller signs along the trail. The Eastford Conservation & Historic Preservation Commission is now responsible for improving and blazing the trail.
 - d. **Water Test:** Trowbridge reported that this year's second water quality test performed by Microvac passed with no problems. Trowbridge will schedule the year's final test by the end of the month.
 - e. **Completion of Kitchen Renovation:** Mayhew and Torgeson arranged for a final inspection by the Woodstock Building Inspector. Barlow addressed the few small items

- which he asked to be corrected. Permits for the Lakeside Cottage, lights in the Dining Hall, and the kitchen renovation were all closed out following his final inspection.
- f. **STEAP Grant:** In 2010, Eastford received a \$227,000 STEAP Grant for major improvements to the Park's Dining Hall. Trowbridge reported that Eastford could not apply for a 2020 STEAP Grant due to Eastford having unspent money from a 2011 STEAP Grant for the Union Society Building. This grant has to be cleared before Eastford can request any additional STEAP money. Woodstock did apply for a 2020 STEAP Grant but did not request any funding for CPP.
 - g. **Website Update:** Barlow added new text and photos to the "News" page of the CPP website to summarize the capital improvements made to the Park over the last 3-4 years. Additional information and photos were added to the "Rental" page of the website to provide important information for potential renters.
 - h. **Response to Natchaug Healthy Watershed Implementation Plan:** Lee reviewed the proposed plan to protect the Natchaug watershed. The CPPC is doing its part to protect the watershed by posting pertinent signs and prohibiting boats on trailers. It was determined that the CPPC had no specific comments to make re: the plan during the "public comment" period. Barlow reported that at the recent Crystal Pond Association meeting, recent tests have showed that the pond's water quality continues to be very good, and that the plant survey failed to detect any invasive plants in the pond.
 - i. **Keypad on Lakeside Cottage:** A new keypad lockset has been installed on the Lakeside Cottage to enable us to provide renters with a code rather than the Park's master key.
 - j. **Seeding Timber Harvest Landings:** The remaining logs were removed from the two landings in July. Barlow smoothed out all of the ruts. Trowbridge will coordinate seeding and hay-mulching of the areas. The forester submitted his final invoice (which was paid), which now completes the project.
 - k. **Letter from Last Green Valley re: National Heritage Corridor:** The CPPC received a letter from the Woodstock Selectmen with a request to submit information on any CPP projects that pertain to this topic. Lee will review the letter to determine how to respond to the Selectmen's request.
7. **Chairman's Comments:**
- a. Barlow summarized the meeting which was held just prior to the CPPC meeting with the First Selectmen of Woodstock and Eastford. At this meeting the CPPC reviewed the history of the Park, a description of recent capital improvements made to the Park (supplemented with numerous photos), and the important action to either repair or breach the Trout Pond Dam. As an outcome of this meeting with the First Selectmen, the CPPC will discuss the options for addressing the dam problem at its next meeting, and will provide the Selectmen with pros and cons for the various options along with the CPPC's recommendations.
 - b. Barlow will complete the requested Selectmen's annual report for the Town of Eastford and preview it with the commission prior to Oct 1.
 - c. Torgeson reported that the Republican Town Committee made a generous \$100 donation to the CPP. Trowbridge reported that we received \$87 from recent bottle/can recycling.
 - d. Several misc repairs required in the near future were discussed.
8. **Motion to Adjourn:** Mullen made a motion to adjourn, Griffin seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 7:32 pm.