



Carolyn Grodinsky  
Bill Johnson  
Bryan Pfeiffer  
Kip Roberts  
Sarah Swenson

Geoff Beyer, Parks Director

## **Parks Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Date: March 22, 2016**

**Commissioners Present:** Bryan M. Pfeiffer, Carolyn Grodinsky (taking minutes), Sarah Swenson, Geoff Beyer, Bill Johnson, Kip Roberts (via conference call)

### **Meeting Agenda:**

Carolyn made the motion to approve the revised agenda, Sarah seconded, motion passed.

### **Parks Commission Chair, City Council liaison, and planning liaison:**

- Carolyn made the motion to appoint Bryan, Sarah seconded, motion passed.
- Bill Johnson and Bryan Pfeiffer will tag team as the City Council liaison - will review agendas and attend meetings as needed.
- Bill Johnson will be the liaison for the Strategic Planning Group (combining city Departments).

### **Approving February meeting minutes and Parks business:**

- No quorum yet - approving February meeting minutes moved to April agenda.
- Parks Commission will continue to meet the third Thursday of each month.
- Re Parks emails – Geoff will arrange to have Montpelier IT department send all emails sent to the Parks Commission email account routed to all Parks Commissioners. One commissioner can draft a reply to an email, have the commission review it, and send it off.
- Parks webpage to have a link to an email that goes to all the commissioners (Bryan to do).
- Meeting minutes need to be posted 5 days from meeting date (Sunday after a Tuesday meeting)
- Secretary must distribute minutes by Thursday, and comments/edits made by Saturday.
- Goal to post meeting agendas at least week before each meeting

### **Nature trail bridge over vernal pool (biologist, John Jose participated in discussion)**

- Would include a fence around the pool that would exclude dogs and people but allow wildlife to get through
- Dog disruption and siltation has an impact on wood frogs and spotted salamanders
- Concern is the bridge is too big, will shade vernal pool wildlife
- John suggested Commission wait to build structure until the end of the summer, but put the fencing in before the eggs are laid.
- Alternative is bridge portion with bulb out, but no wings
- Bill suggested bridge get redesigned/downsized
- John will send note to list serve of other herpetologists to find out about other bridges and will send Commission suggestions for fencing that keeps dogs out and protect amphibians.

[www.montpelier-vt.org/464/Parks-Commission](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/464/Parks-Commission)  
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- Could fence one side for this year and a sign educating dog owners about the vernal pools.
- The Commission tabled this project. It won't happen this spring and may not happen this year.
- Geoff will put a fence on the road side of yet vernal pool.

**Dog Guidelines:**

Carolyn to bring doggie guideline postcards to City Clerk's office and hand out a postcard to local stores that want to display it.

Bryan to make a PDF of postcard for the Park's webpage

Carolyn will follow up on a training/education on dog owners' responsibilities in the park.

**Group permission Form:**

Geoff will make decisions on shelter reservations and inform Park's Commissioners

- Bill Johnson to work with Geoff to come up with a proposal to revise shelter reservation fees (look to other communities, state parks, and others' reservation fees too)
- Geoff to talk to Jesse Baker if there is any City provision prohibiting fee charges

**City Dog Ordinance Review meeting:**

- Carolyn or Sarah will represent Parks Commission in a City committee Dog ordinance meeting Friday March 25<sup>th</sup>

**Subcommittee Work**

Rather than working in formal subcommittees, Commissioners will take on specific work (with willing community members) outside of our monthly meeting.

- Long term Administrative Planning and Budgeting – Bill and Sarah
- Green Print – Carolyn and Geoff
- Outreach, Education, and Events – Bryan

**Funding sources:** To help bring in more revenue for Parks. Model to look at *Burlington Penny for Parks* – got approval from Burlington City Council, penny on the tax rate toward parks (would generate \$85,000 for Montpelier)

**Park's Commission Work plan:**

- Bryan to draft a workplan for the commission for this year

**Other notes:**

- Onion River Sports, Frozen Onion cancelled due to mild weather

Carolyn motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded, 9:05 meeting adjourned

Next meeting Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 19, at 7PM. DRAFT April Agenda:**

- Approve February and March Commission meeting minutes
- Trail name changes, review map with proposed new names
- Bill and Geoff – proposed shelter reservation fees and program
- Revenue ideas for raising revenues (including idea from Sharon at the meeting: when people get their dog license, ask them if they want to make a donation toward the doggie waste station)
- Update on the City Council's dog ordinance review