

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2020

Those present at the meeting were:

**PRAB MEMBERS:** Mark Cascia, Vicki Paulas, Laurie Dalziel, Jim Moran, Leigh Dillon, and Paul Lombardo.

**PARKS & RECREATION STAFF:** Steve Chandlee, Nancy Scozzari, James Wood, Joan Brooks and Breanne Waters.

**Guests:** Georgeanna Windley, Dick Sells, Wayne Handschur, Dawn Lange, Bob & Janet Bezelik, John Kemp, Bruce & Penny Hope, Commissioner Chris Corchiarino, and Commissioner Jack Wilson.

**Approval of May 2020 PRAB Minutes**

**Motion to approve: Laurie Dalziel and Leigh Dillion**

John Kemp, resident of QAC: Loves our work and just wanted to listen in.

**Romancoke Fishing Pier Complaints- Dick Sells, Bruce & Penny Hope, and Bob & Janet Bezelik**

- Dick Sells, resident of QAC: Sent James Wood a letter of concern for Romancoke Fishing Pier on behalf of the Kent Island Estates Community Associations, regarding issues they are having:
  - Noise after hours
  - Parking
  - Casting on Residents boats
  - Drugs
  - Overcrowding
  - Kids unsupervised
  - Trash
  - Drinking
- Since 2016 this has been a reoccurring issue, KIECA would like to request that the hours for the pier change to 7 am to 8 pm. KIECA also wanted to note that Romancoke and Matapeake are the only 24 hour fishing piers in the area.
- James Wood has created the following signage to help mitigate the problem:
  - Residential Area Please keep Noise Down
  - No Parking ,if lot is full no admittance
  - No Fishing on Bulkhead
  - Kayaking launching only
  - No Swimming
- James has also hired an additional part time Ranger to help turn visitors away when lot is full.
- James also wanted to point out that there has been a 42% increase in Romancoke traffic from last May. The pier is open 24/7 and there is a pay machine that charges \$10 for 24 hours per vehicle.
- James is concerned with unintended consequences: If they leave from Romancoke where are the visitors going to go, Wells Cove, Kent Narrows, Matapeake? Can we handle the volume at those other locations? What actions should be taken at those locations before we turn people away from Romancoke?
- Bruce Hope, resident of QAC: Feels the bottom line to the issue that there needs to be a Ranger down monitoring the situation, without a Ranger he believes the situation will not really improve. He wants to know what the capacity of the Pier should be? That sheriff's office cannot really do anything because there is no noise ordinance in QA County and by the time the Sheriff's office arrives the issue is over.
- Steve Chandlee response: There will be a lot attendant at Romancoke tonight (6/15/20), let's see if that makes a difference at all before we make a huge change. Then we can readdress the issue. We do not have the funds nor the staff to do have an attendant throughout the night. We also have a second attendant starting the following week

**Georgeanna Windley, GiGi, provided information on the Kent Narrows Foundation.**

- KNF Can invest funds into the following parks; Ferry Point, Chesapeake Heritage, Public Harbor, and Wells Cove. The funds are to be used for public improvements, ex: lighting and parking.

- They have funds to do a Way Finding Sign Program in the Kent Narrows, RFP already created for the trails.
- GiGi feels trash is a huge issue in the Kent Narrows area and needs to be addressed.
- Steve: There are 6 trash pickups, twice on Saturday, twice on Sunday and once on Monday and Friday. There restaurants need to allow us to use their dumpster in order to save time.

#### **Public Landings Update- James Wood**

- Held a bid opening on June 1<sup>st</sup> for Corsica River Dredging, had a low bidder and will present that to the Commissioner's at the next meeting. The bid came in well under the estimated cost from engineers.
- Because of the low bid we will now be able to pay for the mitigation fees or do a project in lieu.
- Finishing up previous dredging project this week.

#### **Parks and Resource Planning – Nancy Scozzari**

- Waterman's Monument has been completed except for the mason resetting some of the bricks. Waterman's Association as expressed their appreciation and believe everything looks well.
- Blue Heron Nature Preserve is closed for use due to 90 acres of seeding completed. Was experiencing a few vandalism issues there from ATV's causing the gate to close leaving the park only open from sunrise to sunset.
- DNR, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Delmarva Power have offered 1,500 free trees, hardwoods and evergreens, to us for planting.
- Trail Update: Map of public parking throughout the greater Kent Narrows area, to help with parking issues for trail users. Sign Kiosk will be going up in Long Point Park.
- Kimlyee Horn did a KI Transportation Study, completed work last week. Their study will help us determine where the trail should go. Once received we will lay out a plan for construction on land that we own along the Rt 8 corridor and land acquisitions for about 3 properties to make connection. Their study will help us determine where the trail should go.

#### **Recreation and League Update- Joan Brooks**

- All staff now Nationally Certified for Youth Sports Administration, which is a 90 hour course that will help us bring a solid foundation in a professional way for meeting the goals for QAC.
- Artificial Turf Field rentals reopened last Friday (6/12), have been closed since March 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Steady schedule of weekday rentals
  - All groups who had spring turf use scheduled opted to get a credit on account and apply it to future rentals
- All spring recreation leagues cancelled seasons
- Club/travel teams have resumed practices, some requesting scrimmages & games in coming weeks which would require field prep
- Influx of field requests (both natural and artificial turf) from groups that are normally utilize out-of-county fields
- Expecting an increase of spring sports looking to hold fall seasons (fall ball, etc.)
- Numerous requests for tournaments
  - Hogan Lax – 3 tournaments (1 in July, 2 in August)
    - July we can keep in Centreville, the two in August would need to use fields in Kent Island
  - National HS Showcase Lax Tournament (late July)
  - A request for a two-day softball "playday"
  - A request for a baseball tournament in September
- All Sports Leagues Meeting on Wednesday @ 5pm via Zoom

- Will go over guidelines and policies, spring cancellations, summer rentals, and ask for fall field requests
- Beginning to draft a revised set of policies and procedures for field use that will incorporate recommendations from NAYS
  - Will be presented before PRAB this year, hope to have in place for Spring 2021
- Drive in portable movies in the near future
- Fireworks, July 1<sup>st</sup> at Kent Narrows. We are the only local county hosting fireworks. There are only 277 parking spaces. The Sherriff's Office and Parks and Rec will not be enforcing social distancing. Porta Johns will be provided in the Jamall parking lot per D.C's request.

#### **Parks Update – Steve Chandlee**

- Resurfaced Cross Island Trail-completed today
- Batts Neck Drainage issue completed
- Turning irrigation on at HS/Parks
- Removed debris from beaches
- Improved Dog Park water access and prepping area for enhanced amenities
- Bermuda fields: Planning for fertilization
  - QACHS- Aerated
  - KIHS- Planning on aerating this month
- Landscaped High Schools for graduation
- Trimmed trees on South Island and Cross Island Trails
- Bridge repair Terrapin Nature Park
- Wrapped Park Pavilions in Vinyl- Working on putting metal on pavilion roofs
- Worked with DNR on Edible Garden @ WM Park
- Batts Neck Paving Proposal, two options:
  - If we remove landscape timbers \$170,000
  - If Brambles removes it \$198,000
  - There will be an extra cost for us to dispose of the timbers, that is not factored in the \$170
  - There will be sheds that have to be moved in order to pave.

#### **Motion to approve Brambles to remove the landscape timbers: Paul Lombardo and Vicki Paulas seconds it**

- Received POS money this year
  - Acquisitions \$325,392.75, we can roll this over year after year
  - Development \$242,488.75, any suggestions on how the funds should be spent?
    - Trail along the Route 8 corridor or extra trails along the White Marsh Park or extend trails at Terrapin Park.
    - Town of Queenstown is looking forward to adding trails that connect to the Cross Island Trail.
- Currently under a hiring freeze, vacant positions:
  - Park Ranger and possible a second Ranger
  - Admin Position
  - Conservation Specialist
- Parking Meter Potential in new locations either for funding or control. Would be solar powered.
  - Possible seasonal permits on a percentage basis

- Possible locations Terrapin or Matapeake Clubhouse
- Educate the user that the funds received will be used for the park maintenance
- Should it be hourly, daily and at what cost

<b>Action Items:</b>	<b>Assigned To:</b>
PRAB Meeting with Kent Narrows Foundation	PRAB Board/ GiGi
Thoughts on potential Parking Meters at Terrapin and Matapeake Clubhouse	PRAB Board
Pricing on Cameras for Terrapin, Matapeake and Romancoke (solar wifi)	Steve
Forward transportation study to Paul	Steve/Nancy
Contact Restaurants to allows Parks to use their dumpsters	GiGi
Add GiGi to the Chamber Meetings	Joan
Veteran Pricing for Pier admissions	James