

Madison Beach and Recreation Department
Salt Meadow Park Advisory Committee
Monthly Meeting
June 13, 2016
Salt Meadow Park
6:00 PM

In attendance were: Alicia Sullivan, Bill McCullough, Pat Melady, Warren Hartmann, Bill Piggott, Joe Walker, Mary Pat Nardino, Scot Erskine, Mike Ott

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Discussed:

1. Meeting minutes of May 9, 2016. Bill Piggott made motion to approve without changes, Warren Hartmann seconded, unanimous approval.

2. Jerry Connolly, expert birder and owner of The Audubon Shop was guest speaker and discussed important habitat of the park:

-Hammonasset River, Grassland habitat, marshland, and coastal forest habitats, very unusual combination, important and rare in Connecticut from a birder's perspective

-migration is important time when birds use the park.

-northern migration from February to June

-artic shore birds migrate southward from 2nd week of July to November

-spring: songbirds use the park, neo tropical migratory birds sleep here at night,

Songbirds: orioles, woodthrush, tanagers, warblers

Many return to same place. They fly over Long Island Sound and find this park and others to feed and rest which is why the coastal forest is so important

-shorebird migrants go into grasses and shrubs to get away from predators, rest and feed

Coastal areas are good for the winds they need

-raptors come too, so grassland is essential. Simulates tundra habitat in the winter

Savannah sparrows, vesper sparrows, seaside sparrows,

-Salt marsh also protects against flooding

-good for tree swallow boxes and martin houses. They'll eat insects so it helps people too

-bald eagles are here too

3. Sign update: Mike sent info to company re: drill holes. Don't have delivery date yet

4. Maintenance:

Turf: needs to be treated, some areas the grass did not take hold due to toxicity in soil
Some boundary clean up happened

Ropes and stakes around parking area islands, trying to purchase metal stakes

Pricing out timber post and rail, try to get in budget for next year.

Mowing – posts need to be placed to make the line meander instead of straight

Will cut path through grassland because people are cutting through

Additional parking area: Need to decompact and reseed area where hangar was. Committee should make proposal for funding the parking in next Capital Planning Process. If not, gate

should be moved forward to prevent people from driving down near picnic areas and will cost approximately \$5,000.

5. State land: waiting on state. Town has done all of the tasks required.
6. Naming of coastal forest: Motion made to draft a process to name areas and items in the park and to present the Board of Parks and Recreation and Board of Selectmen for action. Motion made by Joe Walker, Seconded by Bill Piggott, unanimously approved.

Motion to adjourn made by Alicia Sullivan, seconded by Joe Walker, unanimously approved.

Subject to Approval