

Parks and Community Programs Advisory Committee
3/19/2019
Mason-Motz Conference Room

Present: Lucky D'Ascanio, Janet Dye, Melanie Collins, Joel Glass, John Lane, Karen Jones,
Andrea Mittleider Absent: Sally Bitan

Minutes from the February meeting were approved.

Parks Division:

The crew is getting ready for the spring season. They are beginning to take off the plows and change over equipment.

Lucky has placed an ad in next weeks Sunday paper for seasonal help. The ad will run on-line for 30 days.

FCP:

The department has been working hard on the spring/summer brochure.

Kate Harris and Ashlee Quirrion recently attended Maine Recreation & Park Association conference the past two days.

Kim Doyon, our senior services coordinator, just attended a meeting in Yarmouth highlighting the Meals on Wheels program. Kim has also been distributing a bi-monthly senior services newsletter via both email and hard copy in town locations. The newsletter includes highlight of workshops and activities are scheduled frequently in the Presumpscot Room as well as lists regularly scheduled programming such as cribbage, mahjong and book club. Recent topics included a workshop by Falmouth Police Chief Kilbride on Senior Scams, Bridging the Tech Gap as well as an Overview of the Alzheimer's Journey. All programs have been well attended.

The library has started moving in to the Mason-Motz Activity Center. They will begin scaled back operations April 1 during the renovation of the existing library. The lease agreement between the library and the town is nearly finalized. It is anticipated that construction will likely take at least a year.

The Town recently held a public forum "Communities in Action: Falmouth Public Forum on Addiction and Addressing Opioid Misuse" at the elementary school. Falmouth was chosen to work with GPCOG to develop and beta test a framework to assist communities in creating awareness and addressing this important national crisis. The town council, school board, parks and community programs staff, and other staff attended a workshop in January. Through that process the group developed a draft action plan focused on staff training, the role the town should play in the potential certification of recovery houses, the administrators' responsibility

for spreading the word about the issue and their plans to address it, etc. They also discussed the problems of teen vaping and other gateway drugs. A community coalition may be convened to meet two to four times a year to assess progress and continue working on this issue.

Casco Bay Can will provide a staff training workshop for FCP staff and camp councilors on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), brain disorders and how they relate to substance abuse.

Old Business/New Business:

Lucky has been working with Master Gardener candidate, Susan Gilpin to create signage for the Town Green Tercentennial Legacy Native Species Garden. Susan and others will be leading nature walks there beginning this spring. A designer at the Maine Audubon assisted with the design and layout of a brochure for the garden.

The Falmouth Senior Resource Guide, developed by Kim Doyon, Senior Services Coordinator, is nearing publication readiness. It should be ready for distribution within the month. The booklets will be available at town offices and the library, as well as online.

Nathan Poore, Jeff Mason, Amy Lamontagne, Diane Moore, and Lucky met with Legion Post representatives regarding veteran's buried in cemeteries in Falmouth. There are only two active cemeteries in town which each are governed by a cemetery association (Pine Grove Cemetery and Blanchard Cemetery). Parks staff is responsible by state statute to maintain ancient burial grounds or abandoned cemeteries (even if they are on private property) for veteran status. The Legion Post has historically taken responsibility for placing American flags on veterans' graves on Memorial Day and removing them after Veterans Day. The individual who has been taking care of this task for Legion Post is a hundred years old, so the town working with the Legion Post and others on solutions for the future and may be seeking some volunteers to assist with the job. The Town investigating the cost of adding a GIS layer to identify veterans' graves.

Next Meeting: April 23, 2019