

**BEECH MOUNTAIN PARKS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 5, 2005**

***I. Call to Order***

Chairperson Reub Mooradian called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Other members present were Jim Brooks, Gayle Cooper, Randy Corn, Brad Mettee and Calder Smoot. Also present were Interim Town Manager Joe Perry, Mayor Rick Owen, Councilmen Pete Chamberlin, Paul Piquet and Dr. Ed Waligroski, Recreation Committee Chairman Fred Pfohl, Public Works Director Riley Hatch and Outdoor Recreation employee Thomas Brown. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

***II. Consideration of Minutes – September 14, 2005***

Mr. Brooks moved to approve the minutes of September 14, 2005 as submitted. Mrs. Cooper seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

***III. Sledding Hill Committee Report -***

Mr. Brooks reported that the sledding hill committee had met and agreed, weather permitting, to open the hill the 1<sup>st</sup> week in November. Mr. Brooks noted that funds were not available to have the additional fencing to separate the age groups at the top of the hill, however, Mr. Hatch felt snow fencing would be an adequate substitute and the cost would much less. Mr. Brooks noted that the grooming of the hill had reduced the accidents last season, along with the addition of adult safety officers. Mr. Brooks noted that he would talk with Mrs. Rominger to find out how many safety officers were employed last season. Mr. Hatch indicated that the Town would be able to use Mr. Coakley's equipment to groom again this winter, as long as it was on the mountain. Mr. Mooradian stated that the sledding hill would fall under the supervision of the Parks Committee and asked that the Committee be kept informed of any actions regarding the sledding hill. Mr. Smoot felt that it was important for the Parks Committee to take charge of the safety issues and also noted that the Tourism Development Authority allocated the funds. Mayor Owen noted that it was important that the Town Council be kept informed of issues relating to the hill.

***IV. Staff Report – Thomas Brown***

Mr. Brown reported 1) All Town Parks had received regular maintenance with some trees being cut back at Perry Park and grass seed sown at Hayden's Park. 2) The Buckeye Lake picnic shelter was ready to be sealed. Mr. Brown noted that an area by the shelter was unsafe because of the drop off, indicating that the Town should install a fence. Mr. Hatch noted that the old fence in front of Town Hall had been saved and would be useable for the area in question. The Committee agreed that this was a good idea. 3) Mr. Brown noted that Kat's overlook had a picnic table that received little use, his recommendation was to replace the table with a bench, the Committee agreed. 4) Mr. Brown noted that he had purchased 2 rakes, loping sheers, leaf blower, chain saw and weed eater for his departments use. The old pump house had been repaired at Hayden's Park for storage of the equipment. 5) Mr. Brown noted that yesterday's group hike went well. Mr. Brooks noted that the work at Sunset Park looked good, the area that had been cleared would allow visitors to see the

sunset and would be a good area for a deck, Mr. Hatch indicated that his department would not have an opportunity this year to build a deck. Chairman Mooradian asked that the topic of a deck be brought up again in April.

## **V. Other Business**

*a.* Chairman Mooradian asked if the Committee was ready to make a recommendation to the Town Council with regards to the purchase of Jim Accardi's property adjoining the section recently purchased by Mr. Brooks. Mr. Brooks noted that the Town, as opposed to an individual, could get a much better interest rate on a loan and he felt it was in the Town's best interest to purchase the property. Chairman Mooradian agreed with Mr. Brooks and recommended that the Town look into purchasing the property in the upcoming fiscal year.

*b.* Mr. Smoot asked if everyone had checked out the hikebeechmountain.com and bikebeechmountain.com, web sites that Fred Pfohl and Renee Castiglione had worked on. Mr. Pfohl noted that the two web sites had been up for the past 4 months and that Mr. Adams had done a lot of work on the mileage and was working on getting signage for the trails. Mrs. Cooper indicated that she would like to see a major bike event, taking advantage of the Lance Armstrong notoriety for the Town.

*c.* Mr. Smoot asked about the Department of Transportation plan for the Parkway to which Mayor Owen indicated that he had been in contact with the representative in charge of the design and found that they were in pricing phase of the project.

*d.* Mr. Brooks asked about the plans to finish the Falls Trail to which Mr. Thomas noted that no new trails were being cut this year, maintenance of the existing trails was a priority. Mr. Thomas noted that the workers from the WAMY program were only doing flood repair, not maintenance to the trails. Mr. Hatch noted that funds had been budgeted to put up a fence around the water plant, allowing easier access to the Falls Trail.

Mr. Brooks asked if anyone had walked the property behind the Beech Alpen Inn down to the Tamarack area. Mrs. Gayle noted that she supported the idea of a new trail and indicated that the new owners were also supportive of the idea. Mr. Thomas noted that it was a lot of work for one individual to maintain all the trails and Mr. Brooks recommended asking the Town Council for more help.

## **VI. Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mrs. Cooper, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Reba Greene  
Town Clerk

