

Town of Mills River
Regular Meeting of the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Committee
Tuesday, January 17, 2023

The Mills River Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Committee met Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Commons Room at Mills River Town Hall. The meeting was available on Zoom for members of the public to attend. The following committee members were present: Laura Moore, Tammy Ross, Tristan Cowie, John Case, Eugene Edwards, and Josh Gravley. Sheri Byers was absent. Mills River Parks and Recreation Director, Nicole Sweat was present. Katrina Townsend, the Recreation Program Coordinator took the minutes.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Tristan Cowie at 7:01 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Laura Moore made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Eugene Edwards. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from November 22, 2022

The Minutes from November 22, 2022, were reviewed by the committee. Tammy Ross made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Laura Moore. The motion carried.

Public Comments

The floor was open for public comment. None was given.

Announcements:

Introduction to New Member

Nicole Sweat, Parks and Recreation Director welcomed the newest member of the Advisory Committee, Josh Gravley. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and stated why they are interested in Parks, Trails, and Recreation.

Mills River Day – May 6, 2023

The town is partnering with North River Farms to bring back the popular Mills River Day on May 6, 2023. It is an event that is focused on agriculture, water quality, and environmental stewardship. Planning for this event is underway.

Election:

The Committee nominated, and then voted for Tristan Cowie to continue as Chairman of the Committee. The Committee nominated and then voted for Laura Moore to serve as Vice-Chair.

Old Business:

Picnic Shelter Restroom Facility Update

The shelter is open, but unfortunately, some plumbing was damaged during the recent deep freeze.

Civic Rec Registration Software

The Parks and Recreation Department is implementing their new registration software, Civic Rec for shelter reservations and soon, programs.

Santa Tour

The 2022 Santa Tour was successful. Mark your calendars for the 2023 date: December 9.

New Property Acquisition/Farm Market

The property adjoining Mills River Park that the Town recently purchased has been requested by the Mills River Farm Market for their weekly market activities. No decisions have been made regarding this property's future use.

New Business:

Recreation Program Fees and Cost Recovery

Nicole Sweat, Parks and Recreation Director presented options for setting fees for Recreation Programs. There are several options for methods of setting costs, such as 100% cost recovery models, as well as cost-benefit models in which programs that are regarded as greatly benefitting the common good are subsidized by taxpayers, while more individualized programs are priced higher in order to recover costs. The committee discussed the different options but did not come to a decision. They planned to further discuss this issue at the next meeting, and reach an agreement to recommend to Town Council.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, at 7:00 p.m. The committee agreed to meet earlier in the month, on Monday, February 13, in order to have a recommendation for Town Council ready.

John Case made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Eugene Edwards. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.