

Tassel Top Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 1997

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ernie Allen, Jim Lewis, Bob Metz, Nathan Poore, Steve Swick,
Donna Johnson

Minutes of June 24 meeting were approved as presented.

PARK RANGER REPORT: Steve Swick assumed the park ranger responsibilities upon the July resignation of Vernon Mitchell. Major topics of his report were staffing, beach erosion, receipt policy, snack shack, boats, portapotties, and cabin rentals (please refer to attachment). Steve also mentioned that the Windham Dare Program had used the beach for aquatic diving and that he supervised teens through the Community Youth Project.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Nathan gave the committee a brief outline of the beach's financial status. With bills still outstanding and the audit not yet complete, it is difficult to state final figures. There is some question as to whether the operation profited as much as the good weather would indicate. The concensus of the committee was to wait and go over figures in more detail at the next meeting.

TRAIL OPENING: Bob Metz talked about the nature trail grand opening in June. The Suburban News printed an article complete with photos. People are using the trail and the Boy Scouts will manage the maintenance of the trail.

OPERATIONS MANUALS: Steve indicated that there is a manual in the ticket booth that will need some revision but is a good starting point.

WEBSITE INFORMATION: Donna stated that this has not been done but she will create an information sheet.

HANDICAP RAMP: At the present time, it appears to be difficult for someone to use the ramp to get into the water. Steve indicated that the ramp was built in sections allowing it to be extended as needed. It was an oversight that this was not done this year.

BY-LAW REVIEW: The by-laws were reviewed and minor changes recommended. The revision will be presented to members at the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: With the completion of Donna's term in December, a new member will need to be appointed. Donna will also contact Steve Crockett to see if he is willing to continue as a member. Steve Swick is considering staying on as ranger. There will be discussion about this at a later date. Nathan Poore mentioned the possibility of coordinating an student internship assist in park management. He will contact the University of Maine at Machias in March.

Nathan Poore is going to request county jail inmates be used for spring clean up at the beach. This request must be sent in January, 1998.

9/9/97

RANGER'S REPORT

On June 30, Betty Cummings contacted me and asked that I fill in as ranger, as Mr. Mitchell had resigned, and Nate Poore was on vacation. I agreed to work for 2 weeks and ended up working through the summer! As Julie Thoren and Cathy Allen had resigned, I decided to hire some more staff on a part-time basis. Cathy Allen agreed to return, as did Sue Maloney. Wendy Thoren agreed to be asst. ranger. Debbie Murray, Christie Murray, Katie Swick, and Rose Mehan all agreed to work 15-25 hrs./wk. My son Zack continued to work as well. By mid-July all of our staff was trained and I myself decided to reduce my hours to part-time. I handled the time sheets, deposits, work schedules etc. on Tuesdays, and on Saturday's I cleaned cabins and handled check-outs and check-ins of Renters.

As you all know, the weather was excellent most of the Summer. The Lake level remained very high until late July, and the beach was crowded. The parking lot, however, remained only half-full. Therefore, we began a policy of warning people of the situation. Some would leave, but most were only looking for a place to be in the water!

The new ticket receipt policy was an adjustment for all of us, but it seemed to be successful. It seemed to slow things up at times, but was an effective control on funds. We used up all 10,000 tickets!

The public seemed disappointed that there was no snack-shack this year, but the soda machine did well. Also, an ice cream truck made daily visits by a pre-arranged agreement.

Boats on the beach was not a big problem this year. To my knowledge, there were no thefts or break-ins. Parties at night were minimal, as far as I know. I handed out 5 keys to the Sheriff's dept.

The Blow bros. did not provide the excellent service of past years.

They had to be called often to be reminded to come and do their thing.

At one point in July I was concerned that we had a health issue on our hands and had to harass them to come!

Cabin rentals seemed to go well. We were occupied 8 weeks this year. Garbage at the cabin was a problem, as the dumpster at the town hall was always full!

Thanks to Nate White, Nate Poore and a really dependable staff we were able to make it through the busy season!

SINCERELY, Steve Swick