

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
AYA PO ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
7:00 PM**

**Town Hall, Lower Conference Room**

1. Call to Order,
  - a. Todd Rolland called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
  
2. Members Present
  - a. Ann Moses, Joan Formeister, Joan Sears, Julie Yeamen, Patrice Carson (via phone), Scott Sutter, Steven Getman, Maureen Parsell (Recreation Liaison), Kim Littig (Public Safety Liaison), Todd Rolland (Town Liaison), Timothy Keeney (Ex Officio).
  - b. All members introduced themselves and their experiences and interest with Aya Po.
  
3. Members Absent
  - a. Brad Pellissier, Daniel Sweeney, Mike Marinaccio, Mike Streeter
  
4. Review of Charges from the Board of Selectmen:
  - a) Addressing security issues at the Park,
    - a. Vandalism and litter,
    - b. Dogs running free and not under the control of their owners,
    - c. Unlawful burning,
    - d. Alcohol and marijuana usage,
    - e. After-hours usage,
  
  - b) Analyzing, assessing, and determining the best usage of the Park, using all available data, including the 2015 Aya Po survey and 2021 COVID survey of residents,
  
  - c) Recommending fundraising opportunities to support the ongoing use and operation of the Park.
  
5. Election of Officers
  - a. Motion made by Ann Moses to elect Scott Sutter as Secretary, Joan Sears seconded, no further discussion, all were in favor, no opposition, no abstentions.
  - b. Motion made by Scott Sutter to elect Joan Sears as Vice-Chair, seconded by Ann Moses, no further discussion, all were in favor, no opposition, no abstentions.

- c. Election of the Chair was discussed; there was a consensus to wait until all members were present to elect a chair.

## 6. Open Discussion

- a. Addressing security issues at the park. Much was discussed about the current problems and possible remedies.
  - i. Problems identified included those listed under section 4a as well as:
    - 1. Poor cell service, which makes it difficult for patrons to call for help,
    - 2. The site is isolated, and this can encourage unwanted behavior,
    - 3. The lack of lighting and openness makes the site an attractive nuisance,
    - 4. Dogs swimming in the lake,
    - 5. Dogs off-leash on the beach and their owners unaware, uncaring, or outright hostile to suggestions that they control their dogs,
    - 6. Trash and debris in the lake,
    - 7. Not enough and uncontrolled parking,
  - ii. There were many ideas suggested, such as:
    - 1. Talking with other communities that have similar facilities. Todd Rolland will contact staff members of Coventry, Bolton, Vernon, Tolland, Ellington, and Stafford to obtain feedback about their experiences and recommendations.
    - 2. Installing area WIFI to allow phone access to report issues,
    - 3. Installing cameras to help discourage unwanted behavior,
    - 4. Installing more lighting on Camp Road and the property,
    - 5. Improve Camp Road to make the area feel less isolated,
    - 6. Open up the sightlines around the lake and from the road,
    - 7. Installing a gate to the parking lot,
    - 8. Recruiting volunteers to serve as security/patrol folks,
    - 9. Prohibiting dogs on the beach,
    - 10. Prohibiting dogs on the beach between Memorial Day and Labor Day,
- b. Best usage of the Park. Many ideas were discussed including:
  - i. Constructing a facility or facilities to use as a base of operations and for camps/events/rental,
  - ii. Construct permanent restrooms,
  - iii. Construct a keeper's cabin and offer it for lease to Public Safety folks,
  - iv. Offer day camps, nature camps, swimming camps, hiking/exploring,
  - v. Improve and expand the beach area,
  - vi. Offer swimming lessons in the lake,
  - vii. Rope off a swimming area at the beach,
  - viii. Install a swim-up dock in the middle of the lake,
  - ix. Improve parking,

c. Recommended fundraising opportunities. Many ideas were discussed including:

- i. Charging for parking,
- ii. Selling swimming passes,
- iii. Selling swim lessons,
- iv. Running camps,
- v. Selling the six building lots,
- vi. Leasing the six buildings lots,
- vii. If a facility is constructed, renting the space to outside organizations/private parties,

7. Approval of Meeting Dates

- a. It was suggested that we meet every three weeks instead of four to complete and present a proposal to the Board of Selectmen by the end of October.
- b. Motion made by Joan Formeister to approve the meeting schedule, Patrice Carson seconded, no further discussion, all were in favor, no opposition, no abstentions. The adopted meeting schedule is attached to these minutes.

8. Adjournment

- a. Motion made by Ann Moses to adjourn at 8:34 PM, Patrice Carson seconded, no further discussion, all were in favor, no opposition, no abstentions.

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
AYA PO ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
2022 Meeting Schedule  
7:00 PM  
Town Hall, Lower Conference Room**

- July                    Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup>
- August                Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup>
- August                Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup>
- September           Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup>
- October               Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup>
- November            Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> (if needed)