

Parks, Recreation & Harbor Advisory Committee

Council Chambers

Bangor City Hall

February 12, 2026 5:15pm

Welcome & Introduction:

Members Present: Ryan Robbins, Jennifer Potter, Brianna Woodworth,

Susan Faloon City Councilor, Suzette Furrow, Pam Kropp-Anderson, Benjamin Collette

Staff Present: Tracy Willette - Parks & Recreation (Director)

Debbie Gendreau - Parks & Recreation (Assistant Director)

Sophie Cameron – Forestry Division / Parks & Recreation

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the January meeting were distributed and approved

Essex Woods & Forestry Division Update - Sophie Cameron (Forestry Technician)

Provided updates on Forest Management Plans

Management Goals: The plans aim to improve forest health, vitality, and maintain recreational opportunities while ensuring properties remain forested

Key Projects:

Prentiss Woods: A management plan is in progress, scheduled for completion by the end of the month, focusing on vernal pool protection and checking for amphibian egg masses in the spring

Essex Woods: A new bridge was installed on the Fall Line Bridge Trail, requiring brush clearing along the main access trail

Wabanaki Partnership: The committee discussed potential partnerships with the Wabanaki community regarding brown ash management for basket making

Public Concerns: Community Member expressed concerns regarding the marking of trees (specifically Red Pine) for cutting before plans were finalized and requested a more transparent public input process

Action Item: Staff will schedule a separate community meeting for stakeholders regarding the Forest Management Plan, publicized in local media

Budget Update - Tracy Willette - Parks & Recreation (Director)

Budget process is starting this week

Master Plan Projects: Staff is reviewing projects from the master plan and requested committee members to submit suggestions for FY27 or the five-year plan

Kiwanis Shelter Projects: The committee discussed the potential installation of three new shelters donated by Kiwanis

Proposed Locations: Fairmont Park, Dakin Park (by the pool), and a third location near the Dog Park or Waterfront

Recommendation: Placing a shelter at the Waterfront was suggested as a good fit for the event space

Waterfront Operations & Fee Discussion

Seasonal Vendor Fees: The committee discussed potentially increasing vendor fees, which have remained the same for 10 years

Recommendation: A 10% increase was recommended, contingent on promised improvements to space promotion, electrical upgrades, and shade structures

Picnic Tables: Discussion on moving picnic tables from the parking lot onto the grass area to improve safety and comfort

Programming Updates - Debbie Gendreau (Parks & Recreation Assistant Director)

Essex Woods Assessment: OSI (Outdoor Sport Institute) held a successful meeting with mountain bikers regarding recreational improvements

Events & Camps:

- **Kenduskeag Stream Canoe Race** registration is live with great early response
- **Summer Camps:** Registration for three combined camps opens tomorrow
- **Culinary Camp:** Registration opens next Tuesday, expected to fill quickly
- **Winter Events:** Successful Father-Daughter Dance noted
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Cross Country Grooming: Grooming started at the golf course today

Next Meeting:

Tentative Date: The next committee meeting is scheduled for **March 5th at 7:00 PM**, which will also serve as a community meeting for the Forest Management Plans

Scheduled Meeting: March 12th 2026 5:15pm City Council Chambers

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.