

Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes September 5th, 2023

Meeting Start: 7:30pm

Attending: Sam Levine, Marisa Steele, Matt Benway, Bob O'Shea, Anne McWaters, Sarah Tate, Travis Wade, Ryan Donahoe

Steele motioned to approve the 8/7/23 minutes, Levine 2nd, Approved 3 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ryan Donahoe presented his Eagle Scout Project idea. He would like to build 4 benches at Charlie Waite field (6'long x 1'tall). He will fundraise to cover the costs of materials and is hoping to be completed with them by end of October.
- Donahoe asked about using pressure treated wood vs cedar. Commission recommended using cedar and rounding/sanding the corners.
- Donahoe asked about storing the benches in the track shack over the winter. Marisa Steele will look into whether or not there is room in the upstairs portion.
- Matt Benway moved to approve the project. Levine 2nd. Approved 3-0
- Sam Levine will send Donahoe an email to officially approve the project.

COMMISSION UPDATES

- **New Commissioner:** Levine proposed the need to officially vote Sarah Tate in as a new Commissioner. Steele motioned to accept Tate as newest member of Parks and Rec Commission. Approved 3-0.
- **Director Updates:** Anne McWaters reported submitting CPIC requests for field and beach house improvements. Steele commented that for future CPIC submissions, we should begin working in June or July, as the summer gets busy and submissions are due at the end of August.
- **CPC:** Steele reported that she is the P&R rep for CPC. The submission date for those requests is Sept 21.
- McWaters listed the possible CPC submission ideas:
 - Robotic Field Liner: Steele and McWaters watched a demo (along with Ben from DPW and Andrew Thomas from HSC) at Charlie Waite field from Turf Tank today. Steele noted that the robotic lining would

be a huge time savings on the initial lining of every field. Steele will work on this CPC request.

- Stairs at Harvard Park: McWaters working on getting quotes for a set of stairs close to the track shack, leading from the parking lot down to the track
- Outdoor Basketball Court at Bromfield: McWaters waiting on quotes back from vendors on resurfacing of court and new stantions and backboards. The current court is not regulation dimensions for a HS basketball court, so redoing may be necessary.
- Pickleball Courts near COA: Bob O'Shea suggested resurrecting the submission from last year. McWaters will connect with Sue Reedich on this.
- **School Committee Liaison:** Suzie Allen
 - O'Shea mentioned that agenda should be sent to our reps on finance committee, select board (Don Ludwig), and school committee (Allen)
- **Open Space Committee:** Julie Doucet emailed that P&R does not have a rep on this committee.
 - Steele offered to fill in for the time being. Tate will possibly take over.
 - McWaters will connect with Doug Thornton, as Doucet mentioned his name. Upper Depot bathrooms for Diabetes Ride – being handled by organization
- **Misc:**
 - Levine and McWaters walked the Garafalo property at 33 Prospect Hill Rd. Met owner briefly and informed him of the idea of a playing field/parking lot on the property. He was unaware of what the town was interested in putting in his backyard.
 - Gale Field Needs Assessment: Steele says final report is due out soon

PROGRAM UPDATES

BEACH:

- O'Shea sent email to Marie Sobalvarro with wrap-up of summer at the beach. Swim/sailing lesson numbers were good, but still not as high as pre-Covid. Spent more money on guards this year to try to build up programming going forward.
- O' Shea mentioned that a new item that needs to be budgeted for is weed removal. He suggests increasing beach budget from \$21K to \$23K for next year in order to pay for removal. Will get quotes before budget is due Oct

6. There are 3 methods O'Shea proposes the Commission choose from but he suggests paying someone to remove them for the first year and then deciding on a preferred method going forward. He recommends not submitting this for CPC yet.

- Aqua Vacuum: Sucks the weeds at out the root level instead of just cutting them like a lawn mower and spreading seed. Weeds are sucked up and deposited onto a pontoon boat.
- Scuba divers with vacuum: Similar idea to above, but this requires people to dive down and vacuum.
- Vertical Herbicide: Chemical used in many lakes (O'Shea reports Lake Winnepesaukee uses this). Chemical is sprinkled directly on weed are and goes straight down and does not disperse into rest of pond.
- Sailboats are locked after the season ends and cannot be rented this Fall now that they have been cleaned, repaired, and stored.
- October 31 – date boat/paddleboard rentals end. O'Shea and McWaters will bring batteries in from locks.
- November 15 – date boats must be removed from moorings.
- about the guards are off duty for the summer. The answer i Some Seniors going off to college next week, plan to close on Aug 26th.

FIELDS:

- Steele noted that school sports started on Aug 21 and despite multiple alerts and reminders to DPW on 6/26 and 8/9, fields were not prepped and ready on 8/21
- Steele and McWaters met with select board members and are optimistic about change moving forward.

TRACK, TRAILS, TENNIS, SKI:

- Steele reported that XC team is clearing the trail behind Harvard Park on 9/9.
- Levine is working on bus for ski.
- ADA picnic tables for Harvard Park Playground still need to be purchased. O'Shea recommends assigning someone as ADA Coordinator on the Commission.

NEXT MEETING: 9/18 7:30pm

Steel moved to adjourn @ 9pm, Benway 2nd, approved 3-0

Submitted by Anne McWaters, Rec Director