

Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes November 6, 2023

Meeting Start: 7:30pm

Attending: Sam Levine, Anne McWaters, Marisa Steele, Matt Benway, Sarah Tate, Bob O'Shea, Gabriel Medjanis, Larry Miller, Staci Donahue

-Reading of preamble by Sam Levine

-Minutes approval from 10/16/23

-Steele motioned to approve. Benway 2nd. Approved 3-0.

Public Comments

-Staci and Gabe from the Transportation Advisory Committee presented info about the MART van that has 2 stops – one at Town Hall and one at COA. They would like to use Charlie Waite to accommodate parking. Anne suggested P&R put wording in to limit the number of cars parked and wording about “no overnight parking”. Anne and Marisa also mentioned that CW is not plowed in the winter.

-This program is supposed to be a “drop and ride,” so there isn’t supposed to be parking

-Staci is looking for flexibility and just wants CW to be an option

-Bob said CW is under Chapter 98. He suggested that Sam would need to check and see if this would even be allowed because this is not a recreational use. Bob said an MOU would have to be signed and he suggests that people would have to pay because this could become a “park and ride” lot.

-Sam said P&R will consider it, but it is looking like a long shot. He asked that Staci come back with more info about ridership and need.

-Bob suggested talking to Lou Russo about the land across from Dunkin Donuts for parking. Anne also mentioned the other office buildings in the area and will reach out to Staci about talking to them.

Rec Director Updates:

-Anne reported that all P&R CPC projects were approved.

-RDA submitted for work in playground – ConCom meeting is 11/16. Anne will attend meeting.

-CPIC meeting to review our applications is 11/9 – Anne will attend and answer questions.

-Beach house has been winterized and all batteries, boat locks, and paint have been moved to Anne’s office

-The reserve fund request for money for trail work at Harvard Park is to be voted on at the next Fin Com mtng on 11/14

-Gloria Pierce asked if Matt Benway could be the POC for the PTO DEI. He said he would.

Fields

-Marisa reported that the wetland study is being done by BSC. Anne and Marisa met with them and did a site walk. They are studying the wetlands and will get us the report by Dec 15.

-Marisa and Anne went to Devens today to talk to the about long-term lease. Waiting on the numbers on that. Would like to have as many options as possible for town. Probably by mid Dec to mid Jan we will have all the options to present.

-Bob said we should reach out to Paul Green about purchasing land in Devens. The town has the right to request parcels of land for \$1. The control of the land wouldn't happen until 2030. Marisa reported that Rich Maiore wanted Select Board to inquire about purchase of land.

-Anne will reach out to Brother Anthony at IHOM about possible rental of their fields.

-Marisa reported that seasons are coming to an end for soccer. Need to decide which field we need to tackle next for improvement. Likely Charlie Waite. Marisa will investigate.

-Marisa also noted signage is our next project – we are looking to unify all signs. Getting quotes on that now.

-The temporary outfield fencing at Ann Lees was taken down. Matt reported that this Spring, there will likely be more softball girls and thus, RL2 will be used more often. Matt is going to check with Dave Boisvert on the covers for the fields.

Beach

-Bob took out the ramps with the help of BHRA. He then floated the docks out a bit so they won't get hung up when the pond freezes. Anne and Bob took all of the rental locks off of the boats racks.

-Weeds in the swim area – Town Hall has received many complaints about the weeds

-Tomorrow night's Select Board meeting. New DEP person did not allow the Pond Committee to do the drawdown more than 3 feet this year. The electric system for running the pump is also broken. Could mean that the weeds are even worse next year.

-The swim area is about 12ft deep. No drawdown, even up to 6ft, will kill the weeds. Anne and Bob are planning to use revolving fund money to try different methods to eradicate the weeds.

-Park and Rec for Marlborough and Shrewsbury used Solitude – Anne will contact to get info

-ConCom and maybe DEP will have to approve what we do – mechanical or chemical

Trails

-Anne reported that we are waiting on FinCom meeting for vote on 11/14 for money to fix erosion on trail at Harvard Park

Playground

-Sam met with Pinards on Friday. The person that installs gates for Pinards was also present. They are going to start working on the new ADA gate entrance to the playground this week. It will be a 5ft wide ADA accessible gate.

Ski

-Still in need of 5th grade coordinator. No news on a new coordinator.

-Matt made a motion to change bus price for 2024 to \$180 for early bird (before Dec 1) and \$200 after Dec 1. Marisa 2nd. Approved 4-0

Next meeting 12/4

Steele moved to adjourn at 9:18. Levine seconded. 4-0 approved

Respectfully submitted by Anne McWaters