

MINUTES
Recreation Commission Meeting
December 17, 2018

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM on December 17, 2018

Recreation Commission Members Present:

Joyce Cannon
Mitch Katzman
Bob Phillips (via Phone)
Elizabeth Phillips
Paul Tucceri

Recreation Staff Present:

Nicole Banks, Director
Rich Adams, Business Manager

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda:

Approval of the minutes from November 19, 2018 Recreation Commission meeting.

Director/Staff Report:

Fields Discussion:

- Mr. John Hickey commented on adding lights at Thurston Middle school upper and lower fields. The school department supports lighting both fields for JV games and freshman games.
- Westwood youth soccer supports the project to assist with additional evening play time for practice.
- The Recreation Director will reach out to the various other youth sports again to confirm their understanding and support.
- Mr. Hickey also wanted people to think about a longer aspirational vision for the town. There is a possibility that there will be a new elementary school in approximately 2 years and space available for field development.
- Mr. Hickey stated that we also need to look at the benefits and drawbacks to turf. Turf is very expensive and needs to be replaced every 10 years at a high cost. The Thurston fields have a gas lines easement so the potential of turf at this site will need to be reviewed in further detail.
- Mr. Hickey talked about the need to better utilize the fields both turf and grass. He thinks the artificial turf at the Thurston should be put on hold. He also mentioned a potential to charge both youth and adult groups a maintenance surcharge if this amenity were added.

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Sheehan Tennis Courts:

- There is the potential for pickle ball courts but it has been recommended that this project is put on hold for 1 year while the School Department reviews potential sites for new school development.

Recreation Van:

- A new van is needed and this will be paid for from the revolving fund
- In the summer the recreation department uses 3 vans, 2 recreation department vans and a borrowed van from Council on Aging and School Department.
- Recommended for approval this year so it can be replaced when needed.

Morrison Tennis Courts:

- It is recommended not to replace the tennis courts at the Morrison Field but to move forward with the refurbishment of the basketball court.

Field Development:

- The Town is working on an agreement for continued use of the Westwood Lodge Field.
- We need to prepare for the lack of field space during the construction near the Lodge field as well as when the new school is under construction.
- Reviewing a design for the First Parish Church land adjacent to the High School is a priority to move forward next year.

Pool:

- There is a need to have a third full time WSI Aquatics staff position:
 - The pool is open from 5am to 10pm
 - There is a wait list for private lessons
 - Ability to increase the amount of group lessons is limited
 - Coverage for early morning swim (approximately 20 swimmers per day)

Financial Assistance Policy:

- \$11,000 came out the recreation funds and \$14,000 was provided by the Westwood Community chest.
- Rich was charged with reviewing the policy and formalizing it.
- The policy requires people to apply for the Community Chest Campership and have a timeline for the application process.
- Other Policy requirements include:
 - Westwood residents only
 - School age children enrolled in Westwood schools

Next Meeting:

January 14, 2019, 7:00 PM

Adjourn:

Moved by Joyce Cannon, seconded by Paul Tucceri to adjourn