

MINUTES

Recreation Commission Meeting 12/14/15

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM. Paul Aries made note that the meeting record shall reflect that board member Bob Phillips is attending remotely via speakerphone for December 14, 2015, by reason of business travel under 940 CMR29.00.

Recreation Commission attendees: Paul Aries, Joyce Cannon, Mitch Katzman, Shelia Moylan, Dave Reilly, Lynn Connors, Elizabeth Phillips, and Bob Phillips

Recreation staff attendees: Nicole Banks

Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Minutes – November 16, 2015
- Monthly Report – November Report
- Motion to accept the consent agenda made by Dave Reilly, seconded by Joyce Cannon. Passed unanimously.

Commission Member reports: Update from Ann Delaney via an email shared by Paul, the comprehensive master plan committee has not yet set a meeting date.

Public Comment: None

Sheehan tennis court refurbishment: Keri DeAngelis, Sheehan PTA co-president, attended the meeting to provide input on the tennis court discussion. Keri and Nicole had previously discussed doing a survey of the school parents to collect input on this area.

Sheehan PTA board had a discussion about the old tennis court use. The school does not currently use the tennis courts but they would be able to add a mini course if area was improved. The preference is for the site to be multi-purpose and be used for PE as well as after school programs. One concern that was raised if the site was developed was use of bathrooms of the school facility.

USTA (Unites States Tennis Association) grant availability notice was posted in a PTA national magazine, addresses the issue of funds available for refurbishment. Keri is willing to explore grants that might be possible. One wrinkle is funding the project that was discussed was that ‘changes’ might arise with the future of Sheehan School being unknown. Paul Aries and Nicole Banks clarified ownership of land that the standing old tennis courts occupy is town owned land. Keri offered her services in being a contact person for any project selected for this site.

A survey is needed that tallies ideas from questions/interests from the Recreation Board, town-wide, PTA, sport groups, etc. The Recreation Commission recommends working with a company that does this well with the goal in mind of great design for the survey. If we wanted to get started now, the survey would have to be paid for by funds in the revolving fund. Discussion continued to identify stakeholders including all town sport leagues

invited to avoid complications from non-involvement. Recreation Commission will put forward a recommendation for the use of the space.

Warrant article for spring town meeting need to be discussed now. The Sheehan tennis court refurbishment is part of the capital plan submitted this year. Discussion continued of waiting for fall town meeting to provide time to collect survey data and community input. Nicole will review option of deconstruction for spring with second phase of development planned for future. Nicole indicated that there are a number of balls in the air right now, with new land acquisition, and the Morrison Field projects.

Dave Reilly made a motion to recommend funding from revolving fund up to \$10,000 for survey Sheehan Rehabilitation Project and to place a warrant item on the May 2016 Town Meeting to address and remove the current structure and turn it into grass space. Joyce Cannon seconded the motion.

Report of the Director:

Field Facility Policy – review policy updates including no animals on town fields, drinking of alcohol is prohibited, playground policy

Nicole reports that, per Town Clerk's office, there is an established by-law and language on signs cannot be in conflict with that by-law. Recommendation from Nicole is to match any new signs to the wording in the by-law. Posting signs in conflict would need to be reviewed by selectmen.

It was decided to state, "Dog waste is a threat to the health of our children and transmits disease. Leash, Curb and clean up after your dog. It's the law." See attached sign. The DPW, Board of Health, Recreation Commission and School Department will review the sign's wording prior to ordering new signs.

Bob Phillips is concerned that signs with that language not only allows dogs but invites people to bring their dogs onto the fields. Nicole suggested that our field policy states the restriction of dogs on town fields, which would set limits but would not be able to enforce.

Discussion about the dog-waste station at Pond Street area that the DPW maintains and were there other fields that need these types of stations?

Field Facilities Updates

Deerfield Field construction update - Nicole shared that the field re-development is almost complete and looks great. The mild weather has been a plus as it allowed for the completion of the sodding of the field. The walking path will be opened up soon and the path will be maintained throughout the winter to provide access between, the school, library and path to High Street.

Westwood Lodge - End of season review on the use of the Lodge field by youth groups. Mike Griffin is at a Board of Selectman meeting tonight regarding review of the use. The schedule started slowly this fall with only three teams scheduled for that field location.

Islington Center Task Force

Nicole is an appointed member of the 21-member task force looking at Islington Center development. They have had two meetings so far. Please bring any ideas or input to her so she may share with that group.

Next meeting January 11, 2016. Paul Aries would like to look at possibly moving meeting to January 25th. To be discussed at a later date. Also, is it possible to set future 2016 meetings to get them onto the calendar?

Motion made by Lynn Connors, seconded by Joyce Cannon, to adjourn meeting at 8:27 PM. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Connors