

MINUTES  
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
MARCH 21, 2022

**Recreation board members present** via Zoom remote participate – Ann Delaney, Paul Tucceri, Mitch Katzman, Joyce Cannon and Katie Collins

**Recreation staff members present** – Rich Adams

Statement: this meeting is being recorded, will be available on cable and media channels for later playback.

**Call to order** at 7:06pm, March 21, 2022

**Public Comment:** none

**Consent Agenda:**

- Motion to approve the consent agenda. Paul Tucceri moved to approve the consent agenda, Joyce Cannon seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve the February 28, 2022 minutes. Joyce Cannon moved to approve the consent agenda, Mitch Katzman seconded. Minutes approved. Passed unanimously.

**Monthly Report**

- Summer Jobs posted in February
  - Good number of applicants (mid 20s)
  - A lot of CITs from last year reapplying
  - A lot of return counselors from last year (40-50)
- Budget Presentation
  - Presented budget and it went well
- CJ Weinacht new camp director
- Spring/Summer brochure went out last month
  - Registrations on Feb 25<sup>th</sup> was successful – Spring registration numbers equal to last year
- Westwood Day - Sept 17<sup>th</sup>
- First look at field day schedule
  - Will hopefully publish calendar by end of the month
  - Able to make change to balance allocation of fields
    - Lacrosse and soccer are the largest user of fields
    - Demand for turf fields

## Commission Member Reports

- Field Netting
  - 5–10-year life span for netting
  - Responsibility would lie on leagues (get certificates from leagues)
  - Have not had any claims in the past few years
  - Talked to Xaverian, Bob Phillips (umpire), Director of Public Works (collegiate baseball player).
  - Morrison has netting system to stop baseballs from hitting firehouse. Baseballs are only effective to a certain point.
  - Any netting will diminish number of balls exiting field but will not stop them all. This is not a complete fix.
  - Rich recommends that we do not move forward with this project (between time and money, there are other ways to use these resources).
- **Rich provided an update. After speaking with the Town Administrator, the Director of Public Works and legal counsel regarding no claims in the past few years, it was thought the netting would not offer full protection. The decision was made to not move forward with providing netting at the high school baseball field.**
- Pickleball
  - Issues: Finding a location and funding for Pickleball courts
    - Prefer to not look for funding until location is found
  - Cannot use Sheehan until it's decided what will happen to the school.
    - It's a good option but a long term option (5 years)
  - Hired engineer to do a study on First Parish Land (First parish church and High School)
    - Undeveloped piece of land – need to clear site, add parking
    - Estimate for grass field (2020): \$1.5M
    - If you remove lights looking at \$1.1-1.2M
  - There is another location where we could add **three** courts
    - Location cannot yet be named
    - Will know within a few weeks if it's feasible
    - Pricing could be around \$150-200k
  - Aware of the demand from the town and its need
    - Town residents want to go to a facility to play, not necessarily borrow or buy or set up nets.
  - If this new option does not work, recommend looking at Sheehan again to temporarily flatten out courts in short term.
    - 5 years is too long to wait
    - Could be \$50,000 to skim coat Sheehan tennis courts
    - This could satisfy demand but there is a lot of reluctance to do something when it could be removed if the school is rebuilt/refinished
    - There are conversations about possible removing those Sheehan tennis courts (internal cost)

## Director/Staff Report

- 2021 Annual Report (Summary)

- No major changes made
- Approved
- 2021 Annual Report (Comprehensive)
  - Submitted along with Summary to town
- Events – March into Summer Registration
  - 158,000 increase over 2021.
  - In the first 4 days – 4,289 registrations
  - Feedback from parents – changes to registrations
    - Change to registration by grade. Eliminated.
    - Registered for “camp” and then selected grade
    - Simplified registration for parents.
    - Capped off by number of total campers – not by grade.
  - A bulk of parents opted for both pre and post camp but also a good number of parents signed up for one or the other.
  - No negative feedback regarding registration
    - One parent complained about the website being slow
    - Rich reaches out to make sure there is IT staff on hand before March into Summer and there’s enough bandwidth. They monitor the site during registration.
- Pool Deck Retile
  - Hoping to get bid speck out by Wednesday
  - Timing depends on tile being available.
  - Would like to get it done this spring
- WHS Tennis Courts
  - Bid going out Wednesday for tennis court resurfacing
  - Ideally the project would be finished by end of June (before camp starts)
    - Would be after tennis season
    - 3 day process
  - Funded by the town

**Other items not reasonably anticipated**

- Received an application for new member
  - A couple of members have a term expiring who are at or exceeded limit (Joyce (3 terms) and Sheila (2 terms) – terms ending June)
  - Will publicize open spots
  - If interest from other town members, members who have terms expiring would be asked to leave the commission
  - If no interest, current members can ask to be reappointed
  - Able to have up to 7 associate (non-voting) members – currently only have one (Elizabeth) term is up but she can ask to be reappointed

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday April 27, 2022, tentative meeting date

Motion to adjourn by Ann Delaney, seconded by Mitch Katzman, passed unanimously;  
 Recreation Commission March 21, 2022; meeting adjourned at 8:09pm  
 Submitted by Katie Collins