

Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes October 2, 2023

Meeting Start: 7:30pm

Attending: Sam Levine, Anne McWaters, Matt Benway, Sarah Tate, Marisa Steele, Rich Maiore, Suzie Allen, Bob O'Shea, Joan Eliyesil

-Reading of preamble by Sam Levine

-Minutes approval from 9/18/23

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

Public Comments

-None

Gale Report Discussion – Rich Maiore

-Select Board went through the report last Tuesday

-Rich would like to meet with Marisa and talk to SC, Open Space Committee, HAA – to ask additional questions and thoughts

-Marisa says options for new field space include: long term lease with Devens, reopening talk about Stone land, area in Harvard park,

-Gale study provided a third party validating the problem

-The bids for the wetlands study are due Friday.

-Cisco is developing some of their land in Boxborough for more businesses – would they perhaps look at donating some land for fields?

-Purchase of land could come from CPC, CPIC, and town coffers

-Bussing would be required for any land. Matt Benway made mention of problems riding regular school busses to athletic fields, as encountered by softball girls this past spring.

-Not to be lost, is that our current fields are already not taken care of properly

-While we wait for the wetlands study, Rich would like to meet and have a “how could we” discussion with a number of groups – hopefully in December – come up with one or two options and find budget and then bring it to Town Meeting in April

-Marisa questioned the timing – Rich is working with Tim and Marie on this

-Rich will talk to Lou Russo and Cisco developer

-P&R should talk to Devens

-We may have an override, so asking for a big ticket item for fields might not work

-Suzie Allen asked about land swap and what would appear as a question at Town Meeting

-Land swap – land that is deeded for certain things can be swapped but Conservation Commission hasn't been willing thus far

-Like to have one or two items appear for town meeting

-Rich will reach out on Friday after we hear about wetlands study bids

Rec Director Updates:

- Sarah Tate was sworn in as a new member to P&R
- Anne reported on budget – town is requesting level funded and level service budgets. Anne will submit both for the Oct 6 deadline. We are asking for a \$500 increase to cover increase in MyRec cost + possible maintenance of field lining system should we get one. No other changes to budget from last year.
 - Marisa asked about DPW budget – Anne will check with Tim to make sure he has money for fert in spring and Fall – is he including that, seed, loam - did he change the amounts on that. Deep tine aeration?
 - Bob suggested going to the finance review of the DPW budget to make sure that he included the things we need
 - Marisa moved to accept the budget Anne presented for FY25. Levine seconded. Motion accepted 4-0.
- Anne asked about prorating for programs, as a request was brought forth by someone interested in tennis – policy is to pro-rate for medical reason or weather/our fault
- Open Space committee – Meetings are Thurs at 8:30am. Sarah is not available. Marisa and or Anne will go this coming Thurs

Beach

- Matt reported that he walks around and asks people with dogs to leave.
 - Bob mentioned that this is most important during the beach season.
- Bob emptied the boats that had filled with water over the last two weeks.
- Sarah Tate asked about the ADA grant for the beach. She would like to help with that. Bob is waiting to hear. MA Disability Grant would likely be available in winter. CPIC- would be available in May. CPC would be available July 1st.
- Bob mentioned that we need to move paint from beach house into director's office.

Fields

- Matt helped lay out a new baseball/softball field at Immaculate Heart of Mary. He noted that they also have a full soccer field there. Anne will reach out to Brother Anthony about possibilities of renting space there.
- Marisa attended CPC meeting on 9/27 – they have enough money that all of our submissions should be accepted.
 - Marisa asked about getting a separate sub account for field development – the way the law is written that is not a possibility, but we could bond a project in the future.
- Fields have been a struggle with all of the rain –
 - CW is closed multiple days every week.
 - UD – Northern half of the field is all mud. Marisa checked with HSC about changing the orientation of the field.
 - Marisa – putting together a list of how the remaining \$22,015 should be used
- Matt wants to discuss how these fields are being maintained
 - Bob says we could bring up how DPW dropped overtime and does not have seasonal employees – those operational items have really affected the fields

-Marisa will update the MOU

Trails

-Trail behind HP had really bad erosion. XC team worked on it. Still needs work. Pinards has quote for drainage pipes and clearing out trough along the side

-Anne to look at accounting and figure out if we can pay the \$6000 to Pinards

Playground

-Eagle Scout project was signed by Sam Levine

-Sam, Marisa, and Anne met with Pinards about playground –

-quotes for drainage (\$2500) drain inside play area tying into drain outside fence

-gate to move entrance of fence -\$1200

-prep work outside of fence -\$3150

-paving outside of fence - \$4500

~\$11,000

-Liz Allard – says an RDA is needed for the drain

-Rubber mats and walkways – should go in the RDA

Ski

-Anne met with Maureen Babcock this week. She is looking for a new coordinator and will be in touch as soon as she has one.

Next meeting 10/16

Steele moved to adjourn at 9:30. Benway seconded. 4-0 approved