

Parks & Rec Meeting

March 21, 2022

Virtual Meeting called to order 7:33pm by Bob O'Shea

Members present: Bob O'Shea, Keith Bilafer, Mark Morin, Michele Lauria, Marisa Steele, Kevin Mitrano, James O'Leary

Minutes of March 7: Kevin Mitrano has not completed them yet. No vote taken

P&R ROLES/WORKLOAD:

Michele Lauria proposes a future meeting (in person) to discuss the future roles of P&R commissioners as well as Kevin Mitrano's duties and need for an assistant. Ideally the meeting will have representation from Linda Dwight and/or school officials. O'Shea will determine if proposed Date of Friday 3/25/22 in late afternoon/early evening is feasible.

PROGRAM UPDATES

1. TRACK/TRAILS/OTHER (Steele)

- a. Update on playground mulch issue. Due to lower estimate for infield work, P&R does have some money left over in its budget to purchase mulch from the lowest bidder. Steele is working with Kara Minar to help find funding for the labor part of the project. Motion by Steele to use \$4200 of P&R's school & common fund for purchase of mulch. Second by Bilafer. Approved 5-0.
- b. Steele will be meeting with Tim Kilhart on 3/22 to discuss installation of the new replacement slide

2. FIELDS (Bilafer/Mitrano)

- a. Lack of Rectangular Field Space – All fields currently closed due to wetness. Will be reassessed next week.
 - i. Upper Depot is not ready for reopening at this time as seed from last fall has not fully matured yet. Will be reassessed as season progresses.
 - ii. Sunday morning conflict exists – Not enough fields. Boys' youth lacrosse has moved its league games to Sunday mornings (previously in afternoons). Adult soccer has historically used the fields Sunday am. Bilafer will inform Boys' Youth Lacrosse that they will need to find alternate time or location for their league games.
 - iii. HAA Youth Soccer requests the use of Harvard Park field for its practices in the spring season. Discussion that HP field has drainage issues and has been reserved as a "game only" field to try to maintain its integrity. Morin motioned to allow HAA Youth Soccer to use HP field for Spring season. Second by Steele. Opposed 4-0 (Bilafer abstained).
 - iv. Use of Devens fields to address rectangular field shortage. In fall, \$1000 deposit and additional \$342 paid to Devens. All of this should be reimbursed to P&R

from school budget as it was used by school teams. O'Shea and Mitrano to look into the status of the reimbursement

- b. Update on field maintenance: 3 Seasons will be dethatching both Ryan land Fields, C Waite and HP this spring. DPW to seed AFTER dethatching occurs. No dethatching to Lower Depot (nothing to dethatch!) but will be reseeded.
 - c. James O'Leary (HYBSA) proposed a potential transition of Ryan Land #2 to an upgraded and regulation soft ball field, replacing Ann Lees. This is in early stages of discovery.
3. BEACH OPERATIONS (Lauria/ Mitrano/O'Shea)
- a. Review of updated Beach positions Salaries to reflect inflation and be competitive with neighboring towns. See attached spreadsheet. Motion by Lauria, second by Bilafer. Approved 5-0.
 - b. Review & discussion of proposed Beach fees/rates (for parking, boat slips/rentals, etc). Motion by Steele and second by Bilafer to approve all the rates/fees (excepting swim and boat lessons which will be discussed at next meeting) – see attached spread sheet. Approved 5-0.
 - c. O'Shea suggests that future P&R commission brings to town vote the need for taxpayers to pay for lifeguards rather than paid out of P&R budget. O'Shea confirms that the Beach Revolving fund is increased to 100K next year.
4. EVENT REQUESTS and NEW BUSINESS: none

ADJOURN: 9:57 pm Motion- Bilafer; 2nd – Morin Approved: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Marisa Steele

Commissioner, Parks & Rec