

Parks and Recreation Commission

June 24, 2022

5 pm - Meeting came to order

Attending; Mark Morin, Bob O'Shea, Keith Bilafer, Marisa Steele, Sam Levine, Staci Donahue, Amanda Riviera, dskauen

Preamble and sound check

Bilafer motioned to accept minutes of 6/6/22, Steele 2nd, approved 3-0

O'Shea commented on the executive session about the proposal we offered HCT and Sudbury Valley Trust land swap. Attorney General Office sent a letter stating that the purpose of the deal was okay but, discussing the value of the land violated the open meeting law.

Public Comment – None

Beach

- Sticker checker applications were approved by town hall.
- Will be using software called Home Base to keep track of scheduling, punching in/out, time off, etc.
- Swim lessons have started @ Devens.
- Boating program starting up a bit slow due to the schools still in session.
- O'Shea purchased new signage and was able to spend down beach budget to \$44 for end of FY 22'
- Schools finally reimbursed P&R the \$1000 for field rentals in Devens
- 2nd round of deep aeration at Harvard Park to be completed by 6/30/22 to bring down field budget to \$16 by end of FY 22'.
- Last of old field revolving budget was used to fund Kevin's salary
- Old revolving field account was set up so that any moneys over \$10,000 could be swept out by the town. O'Shea to ask at next town meeting to reestablish a new field revolving fund to be used by P&R for needed field upgrades.
- Cars that drive up to the sticker checkers are now being recorded via camera

Fields

- Status of HES field from the sub committee of the building committee are still being reviewed. O'Shea not sure if the HES field is the right solution
- O'Shea commented on the RFQ for HES field and stated that the schools did request for irrigation, and he would also like to add that the bases be laser levelled not just a request for a flat field.

- Levine asked how do we police overages in construction costs for a new field. O'Shea stated that there would be an oversight committee such as the one used for the school construction.
- Steele commented that this was only a RFQ not a bid contract and we should only concentrate on the field levelling at this time.
- O'Shea brought up the options in field design sizing regarding practice field versus game field. Morin stated if there is room wouldn't the optimum field design be the use as a game field. Bilafer stated that MIAA doesn't care of the design size if it meets their criteria
- Steele suggests changing the RFQ language to "design a field with the minimum distance of 185' up to the optimum distance of 200' if space allows".
- O'Shea to send upgrades to RFQ to Charlene concerning the flatness of the field. He also commented that this could be just a temporary fix until we can get a permanent sports complex.
- Steele made a point that if we are spending time and money to design and build a field it should be done right and permanent. If this cannot be accomplished, then we shouldn't do it all.
- Levine not sworn in as of this meeting
- Field MOU adjustments are being underway. O'Shea to clean up wording to have schools and DPW sign the MOU before 7/1/22.
- O'Shea discussed our executive session proposal for a land swap with HCT for the corn field on the corner of South Shaker and Ayer Road. HCT responded "no", they were keeping the land in agriculture. The other request was made to HCT and Sudbury Valley Trust to see if they had acquired land in past years that they would be willing to trade for so P&R could sell it off to buy a flat piece somewhere for a sports complex. Both groups said "no".
- Morin asked if anyone new of the proposed cost of the land for sale over by Charlie Waite on Ayer Road. Donahue stated that a developer and seller are in discussions with the planning board about approvals for some proposed project at this time.
- O'Shea suggested we send a letter to the different conservation committees in town explaining our situation and that we may be moving forward with the use of our own lands for development.
- Steele asked where the wetlands are in the woods behind the track. O'Shea noted that the only positive wetland area is at the bottom of the hill to the right towards Ayer Road. The upper half is only wet during the spring due to run off from the hill.
- O'Shea noted that there is a field to the right of Ryan Land that is overgrown with brush that could be converted to a field. Morin asked about the cost to research the

development of a field. O'Shea said it would have to be a CPIC request so a feasibility could be done for the Depot land.

- Steele suggests that we wait to send out any letters to these groups until we know which land, we want to pursue.
- O'Shea is hoping that the conservation community gets together to take the field requests seriously & try to work together to resolve the field shortage issue.
- Steele motioned to keep Dan Daley as OSC liaison, Bilafer 2nd, approved 4-0
- Steele stated that the town open space survey is underway and should be done before 6/30/22.
- Bilafer to forward the survey link to HAA members
- Bilafer's last executive act was to reopen upper depot field
- O'Shea suggests that we come up with a capital plan to ask CPIC for funds to be able to close and repair fields each year.
- Bilafer recommends looking at lower depot, Bromfield field and Charlie Waite. Also, Ann Lee may need the whole outfield redone in sod.

Track/Trails

- Steele's husband weed whacked rte. 2 trail to preserve the width
- Steele starting to do research on the handicap perimeter @ the playground
- Suggestion was made that we need to come up with a coordinated effort when it comes to rectangular fields funding and track repairs. P&R needs to try to work it out so both projects are not happening at the same time and competing for funding
- O'Shea wants to vote on new positions within P&R
- Steele wants to know how someone would go about starting a new program within the town. O'Shea said they would have to approach the appropriate liaison for that program and if need be, would be voted on by P&R. Once approved it would be entered into CiviRec for fee collection and then CivicRec would create the necessary contract for that program.

New Business

- Pond Road will be closed Saturday night 6/25 for the triathlon scheduled for Sunday.
- July 2nd Bromfield field will be used for 4th of July field events
- Bilafer reminded us that the MOU needs to state the creation of a sports council
- O'Shea also suggested the need to create a job description combining the beach director and P&R director positions
- All thanked Bilafer for his 2 years of service as field liaison
- Donahue forwarded and old concept plan for the use of the woods at Harvard Park for review

Bilafer motioned to adjourn, Steele 2nd, approved 4-0

Next meeting scheduled for 7/18/22

Meeting ended 6:44 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Mark Morin, commissioner