

SUDBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JOINT MEETING WITH PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016
6:30 PM, SENIOR CENTER, PINES ROOM
FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CENTER

Susan Iuliano opened the meeting for Board of Selectmen

Jim Marotta opened the meeting for the Park and Recreation Commission

Jim explained interviewing process for the candidates

Susan further explained the two boards collectively vote to fill the open Park and Recreation seat. Susan explained Jeffrey Winn is a candidate, but could not be here tonight, but they have his application and materials.

Mara Huston is also a candidate

Len Simon asked if there was a reason Jeffery Winn could not attend tonight. Jim Marotta explained it was a health issue.

Board of Selectmen (BOS) went first. Susan thanked Mara for coming and her interest. Susan asked Mara to inform both boards of her interest. Susan stated the BOS was aware Mara ran for the position and was elected, but then did not take the position due to a conflict.

Mara stated she resolved the conflict, moved business over to Wayside Athletic Club in Marlborough. Not an issue/problem anymore. She stated she is applying for the position for the same reason she ran for the position. She believes recreation is an important component of everyone's life and a healthy community. Believes recreation is for everyone and has lots of ideas to help. During campaign she talked to many groups – "people listened to me and I listen to them. 935 votes, which represents more than half the ballot that day. The reasons I ran are the reasons I applied today."

Susan asked if for questions from either board. Chuck W. asked Mara to expand on her comment of recreation for everyone.

Mara discussed structured opportunities and unstructured opportunities such as tennis, tennis program to find other players; more adult Park and Recreation programs on weekends; more needs for special needs community.

Len Simon – asked if she would need to recuse herself from any Bruce Freeman Rail Trail discussion because she is an abutter? Mara said she is not technically an abutter. Piece of land so not technically an abutter.

Chuck – thinks rule is abutter to abutters.

Susan – have not clarified the rule yet in this case but may be rule.

Len – asked if Mara has consulted Town Counsel about this?

Bobby Beagan – asked about abutter to abutters.

Susan – have been working with Town Counsel to clarify this.

Mara – to clarify, Michael Ensley is my neighbor and directly abuts so it would be an issue for both him and I, but does not see that as a reason not to take the seat.

Bobby – Do abutters generally have to recuse themselves?

Len – explained reasons why they would recuse themselves and financial interests.

Bobby – asked Mara what she feels could be improved at the Commission meetings based on her recent attendance at the meetings.

Mara – she would love to see when meetings are scheduled and how they are communicated.

Pat Brown – business question – and Fairbank question regarding Mara’s business. “Forever rule” not bringing business back to Atkinson.

Mara – she is happy at Wayside, no interest in bringing back to Atkinson, happy situation there, was welcomed with open arms.

Public Comment: Craig, 187 Goodman’s Hill Road, spoke on behalf of Mara being on the Commission

Peter Kramer – 47 Perry Lane, spoke on behalf of Mara on the Commission

Helen Moyer – 59 Blueberry Hill Lane, spoke on behalf of Mara on Commission

Lisa Schwarzwald, 27 Surrey Lane, spoke on behalf of Mara on Commission

Susan – clarified the item on the BOS agenda about the term on the Commission

Bobby Beagan – asked if voting on Mara and if Jeffery Winn submitted anything to be considered.

Susan – Jeffery submitted Town Application and then Susan went over his application.

Discussion about when Jeffery notified about not attending; how meeting was previously rescheduled and made several attempts to accommodate both candidates.

Bobby made a motion to appoint Mara Huston to the Park and Recreation Commission term to end at the Town Meeting 2017. Jim M. seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed.

Discussion regarding the tennis courts a CPC request.

Jim M. – Commission discussed this at the last meeting. There were concerns regarding demand and little information on the Town’s capital process, which is difficult to understand and navigate.

CPC- Capital Article Submissions

Bobby – discussed CPC submission history and two projects last year at Davis and Featherland Tennis and usage at other courts and need for Featherland – no actual data to support due to timeline of courts.

Chuck – asked if data was a question and how would they be able to get the data?

Michael Ensley – discussed priorities, Feeley, and Featherland usage

Chuck and Michael – suggested the group pushing for courts help with fundraisers and other support. Wouldn’t want space turned into something else. Maybe reach out to supporter group.

Jim – discussed tennis experience and playing at courts and usage and potential usage of multi usage courts at Featherland.

Jim – compiling data, Kayla is new and getting her footing.

Mara – discussed tennis experience and playing at courts and usage and potential of multi usage courts at Featherland.

Bobby – All in agreement everyone wants the courts back, it is just a matter of timing and priorities

Len – discussed his usage of courts and times it was full. Balance from tennis court usage and availability – CPC submission.

Bobby – even if not filling other courts in Town we should still put Featherland courts back.

Len – youth tennis program a potential?

Bobby – Probably let Kayla research that and do that at all current courts to see demand to collect data to see what we need.

Mara – Tennis camps went to redoing tennis courts in another community.

Pat – Park and Recreation not planning to bring this to CPC this year and Selectmen just want a feel for things but not planning to bring this before CPC this year, it is possible with program support and fundraising it might be possible.

Jim – correct, demand and funding. The consensus is to come up with a plan. Kayla is on board.

Susan – Can put his on the BOS agenda if needed, but should be Park and Recreation.

Bobby – Turf fields at LSRHS was on Town warrant without any discussions with Park and Recreation.

Susan and Chuck – anyone can submit article, but it is probably good to know what Park and Recreation thinks

Chuck – big question is where does it rank?

Jim – Ranks high, high need for field space. If town gets behind this, lights should be considered.

Susan – not on agenda, so just discussion

Len – Selectmen motion to adjourn, seconded by Pat. Motion passed.

Michael – Park and Recreation motion to adjourn, seconded by Bobby. Motion passed.

Minutes recorded by Kayla McNamara