

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2011

Present: Commissioners- Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Dick Williamson, Tobj Gozdeck
Guest – Bob Haarde – Board of Selectmen, Nancy McShea-P&R Director

Minutes from the July 25th meeting were approved with corrections.

Bob Haarde, the Selectmen appointed to represent Park and Recreation, was a guest at this meeting. He was invited to discuss the Board of Selectmen goals and what the Selectmen need from Park and Recreation. The Commission was on the August 16th agenda, but learned they were moved to the September 27th agenda. Bob stated that the goals for the Selectmen will not be set before that date. One of the Commissioners asked what the Selectmen would be looking for from the Park and Recreation Commission. Bob stated the Selectmen would look to the Commission for direction on fields, “what do we really need, how many of each, etc., and feelings toward the Rail Trail.

Jim Marotta stated he wasn't sure the Commission alone had the knowledge to give direction on the fields to the Selectman. He stated they would probably have to use an outside source to gather town information and user information to get a true picture of the needs and what is available.

Paul Griffin asked Bob if there were other plans for the Melone property. Park and Recreation had previously expressed interest in the land for a multi-recreation use. Bob responded that the Housing Authority also expressed interest in the land.

The Commissioners discussed with Mr. Haarde the plan to have a 3rd party update the existing master field plan that was completed over 5 years ago. There was discussion that a portion of the “Friends” money should be used to update the study. It was thought that the cost would be somewhere around \$25,000 to \$30,000.

It was suggested that the Commission focus on two exercises; showing the need for additional fields and looking at parcels that may be available for fields, either new or existing. For example, Davis field could be renovated to be more useful during the playing seasons.

Bob H. stated that he thought the Melone property would come up when the Selectmen were discussing their goals, but wasn't sure it would get on their goals for this year.

CPA money could be used on the Melone property, but not at Davis since it is an existing field.

Paul asked if the Selectmen were in favor of additional fields and Bob said yes they were pro sports/recreation.

Tobj inquired if Park and Recreation should write a letter similar to the Housing Authority expressing interest in the Melone property, and Bob thought that would be a good idea.

Bob stated the Selectmen would take all the information supplied to them and the ultimate decision will be made on what will be the “highest and best use for the Melone property”.

Dick W. asked about the Wagner property. Bob stated he thought the Town was going to take the land due to the fact the property was condemned and taxes weren't being paid.

It was thought that the 10 acres designated as conservation could be transferred to another location in town. This would probably take a town vote first and then a legislative vote.

Jim M. asked if there was any money to spend on the field study. The answer was no and the thought was that private funding would be better and more expeditious.

It was stated that Recreation could/should meet with the Housing Authority to work together on a compromise for the Melone Property.

Rail Trail – Dick W. proposed that at the next Park and Recreation Commission invite a pro-rail trail and anti-rail trail representative to speak to them in regard to the proposal and funding for the first ½ mile of Rail Trail. The Friends of the Rail Trail have proposed to fund the first ½ mile. Bob H. stated that at some time the BOS may want the Park and Recreation Commission's view on the Rail Trail. After discussion, it was suggested to wait until after the Board of Selectmen vote on the Friends of the Rail Trail's proposal to fund the first ½ mile. At that point the Park and Recreation Commission will determine if they need to invite in representatives to speak to them on the Rail Trail.

Ice Hockey Update –

Bob H. mentioned the idea of a temporary outdoor hockey rink for both towns – Sudbury and Wayland.

He also mentioned some discussions on an indoor hockey rink proposed to be built near the Transfer Station. This would also be a Wayland/Sudbury endeavor. The existing septage facility would be leveled and a new building housing an ice rink would be built. Both towns would be involved in the running of the facility. Wayland is driving the plan at this time.

Nancy stated that she did meet with the ice hockey youth group from Sudbury earlier this year with Bill Place. They discussed starting much earlier this year at Featherland even if they stick with two rinks on the parking lot. Last year they started too late to really get anything good started.

Budgets/Revenue/Expenses – Tobj asked for more information on the financial side of Park and Recreation to get a better understanding of the Recreation budgets/accounts. It was decided to start off with the Field Enterprise Budget. Nancy will bring a copy of this year's budget and revenue projections to the next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled of Monday, September 19th, 2011 at 6:30pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.