

January 25th, 2011
Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes

Present: Commissioners - Jim Marotta, Paul Griffin, Dick Williamson, Bobby Beagan
Guests: Levi Hunsberger

Minutes from the last two meetings were approved as is 4-0.

Skate Park Discussion - Levi Hunsberger, a 7th grader, requested to speak to the Commission with a request for development of a new skate park in Sudbury. He presented reasons why it would be good for the town, some funding ideas, maintenance concerns and the need for some other recreational activity in town for young kids.

Nancy along with the Commissioners informed Levi that the last skate park in town was shut down due to lack of interest, lack of funds and deterioration of the equipment. Nancy explained that in order to create a new skate park the interested party would need to develop the funding for the project since the town tax dollars are not used for recreation projects. The skate park would need to be self funding, not only to build it, but also a maintenance fund would be required to keep it running. She also agreed with Levi that a new structure should be built with the right materials (a concrete skating area) which would make it pretty much maintenance free.

Nancy and the Commissioners told Levi they would keep his request in mind and asked for copies of his material. They also commented that perhaps the proposed recreation project at the Melone site would be a good location for a skate park if it were to be approved and funding supplied.

Haskell Parking Lot Expansion - Nancy commented that few residents felt the town was going behind their backs and spending unapproved money on the Haskell parking lot and also stated that the town didn't have the authority to proceed with the project. Nancy distributed background material from Jody Kablack and Bill Place. Recreation will need to get a site plan approval before going forward with the project. The site plan review will take place on Tuesday, February 15th, at a Board of Selectmen meeting.

CPC meeting – Paul stated that the indication from the CPC was that they were not in favor of the Recreation proposal for the Melone property. The discussion centered on what is the real need of the town for the site and do they really know at this point. The Commissioners questioned if they should pull the Recreation proposal from consideration, but decision was to leave it in the mix. The Commissioners did not want to pull it, but would rather let the CPC vote on it even though it appeared that the CPC already made their mind up on how they wanted to pursue the development of the property.

Paul suggested that the Commission look more towards development of Davis as a CPC project. There was some discussion on the subject of using CPC funding for developing Davis Field since it is already considered a recreation site. Feeley was also discussed, but Nancy did not think it would qualify for CPC funds.

The CPC meeting to review proposals is scheduled for January 26th at 7:00pm.

Nancy suggested the need to get development of the Melone property on the Selectmen's goals for FY13.

Featherland Ice Rink Update – Nancy reported that she met with Bill Place, Maryanne Bilodeau, and Mike Ensley to further discuss the request for a better ice rink at Featherland. The decision at this time due to time constraints was to build another rink on the Featherland parking lot that would be used for ice hockey only. Nancy sent a letter out to the abutters informing them of the request from ice hockey and the possible use of lights. She did receive one response saying the abutter did not want the lights used in the winter. Paul asked if the grass on the softball field would be ruined if the ice rink was located in the outfield. The repeated traffic of the users of the ice rink would ruin the grass more than the ice rink itself.

The commitment at this time was to make the current ice rink better for this year and look to review the plans for next year in the fall of 2011.

Misc - The Commissioners signed the Recreation, Teen Center, and Youth Revolving Articles that will be placed on the consent calendar in the Town warrant.

Then next meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 28th at 6:30pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm