

Town of Sudbury  
Park and Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
September 19, 2011

Present: Commissioners- Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Dick Williamson, Tobj Gozdeck  
Nancy McShea-P&R Director, Guests/Visitors: Scott McGavick, Mike Walsh, Pat Brown

Minutes from the August 15th meeting were approved with corrections.

**Board of Selectmen meeting on September 27, 2011** – Nancy reported that she met with Bill Place, Debbie Dineen and Jody Kablack to discuss Park and Recreation needs and potential plans for field expansion. Nancy informed the Commission that she reported that the 2004 Gale Study on fields will be updated using funds from the Friends account. She also stated that the Park and Recreation Commission will request that the Board of Selectmen do a highest and best use analysis on the Melone Property and hopefully get it on their goals for FY 12. They also discussed expansion possibilities at Davis and Feeley Field along with discussions on TI-Sales land, Curtis Middle School, and the fields at LSRHS.

**Babe Ruth Baseball/Youth Baseball** – Nancy gave baseball an update on the Park and Recreation Commissions plan to ask the Board of Selectmen to put the Melone Property on their FY12 goals. Mike and Scott stated they didn't see their plans for baseball fields being implemented at Melone. It was stated that the Housing Authority also has interest in the Melone property. Scott and Mike expressed concern that their plans for the Melone property would not be considered by the Selectmen. Dick W. stated it probably wasn't the best idea to have baseball present their plan last year because it may have been viewed as a "baseball plan" with not enough other options.

Scott reminded the Commissioners that Baseball's original plan included housing, but it was suggested they remove it and just included recreation. Paul stated he would contact the Housing Authority to see what they could accomplish together.

The Commissioners stated they are on the Sept 27<sup>th</sup> BOS agenda to request that the FY 12 goals of the Selectmen include a goal of expressing a preference for Melone Property use so that the Park and Recreation Commission can move forward with their goal of identifying a new field location in Sudbury.

Paul reported that the funds for an update of the 2004 Gale study would be available from the Friends of Park and Recreation account.

The second issue Scott wanted to address with the Commission was Babe Ruth's frustration with the expense they have had to incur to maintain the fields in town in regard to grooming, cutting, new dugouts at Haskell, etc. He said they have not only spent a good deal of their money but also asked Sudbury Little League for a loan. He reported that they 1) built a new shed, 2) bought a tractor to groom the infield, 3) re-sodded the infield at Feeley, 4) fixed overgrown warning track at Feeley, and the bullpens.

Scott reported that Haskell, which due to the wetness at Feeley, is now their primary field and they have added new dugouts (\$15,000), a new shed (\$1,800), portable outfield fence, (\$1,500), and a batting cage (\$2,500). He also said they put in a new shed at Curtis for another \$500 and that Boy Scouts will be installing new scoreboards at Curtis.

He said it would be great if Babe Ruth could get some help in absorbing the costs they have incurred. Mike Walsh expressed concern that money the youth groups pay for field permit fees are being used to supplement other Park and Recreation expenses. Nancy responded that Park and Recreation would not be able to help with the expenses. She also stated that some of the projects Babe Ruth decided to undertake could have been done by the Park and Grounds staff, but would not have been able to be done as quickly as bringing in an outside group. Some of the other expenses incurred by Babe Ruth were projects they chose to do, not ones that were requested by the town.

Nancy assured Mike and Scott that field permit money goes into the Field Enterprise Fund and can, by law, only be used for field salaries, field facility and field maintenance expenses. The Commissioners and Nancy stated that they need to better educate the field users on what expenses their permit fees cover.

Nancy reported that in FY 12 the Field Enterprise Fund will need to cover a portion of the salaries and benefits of the Park and Grounds staff. This is a decision made by the Town Manager due to the fact that a majority of the workload of the Park and Grounds staff is due to the requests of the youth user groups.

**Old Business:** Concern was expressed by some of the Commissioners that Haskell parking lot, although paved with the first coat, was dangerous due to the drop off left around the parking lot and the fact that it was no longer easy for handicapped individuals to access to the playground.

Nancy will contact Bill Place and see what can be done to grade the drop off around the parking lot and make the handicapped access easier.

Dick Williamson offered some news regarding the CPC and funds for the Pantry Brook Farm. He stated that Carol Wolfe appears to now be willing to sell the land to the town.

The next meeting was scheduled of Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 6:30pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.