

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2012

Present: Commissioners- Tobj Gozdeck, Dick Williamson, Paul Griffin (arrived 7pm), Bobby Beagan

Absent: Jim Marotta

Meeting started at 6:40pm when the Commission had a quorum.

Commissions reviewed past minutes for approval.

Tobj Gozdeck made a motion, with a second from Bobby, to accept the November 1st minutes with corrections. Approved 3-0.

Bobby Beagan made a motion, with a second from Dick, to accept the November 20th minutes with corrections. Approved 3-0.

Tobj Gozdeck made motion, with a second from Dick, to accept the October 9th minutes with corrections. Approved 3-0.

Tobj Gozdeck made motion, with a second from Bobby, to accept the October 17th minutes with corrections. Approved 3-0.

Tobj Gozdeck made a motion, with a second from Dick, to accept the Sept 17th minutes with corrections. Approved 4-0.

Paul will distribute minutes from the July 30 meeting for review.

CPC Meetings – Bobby explained that the Dec 5th meeting is more of an overview of CPA and will include plans for Recreation over the next 10 years or so. The discussion will be on “big picture stuff”. The Commissioners did not think that representatives of girls’ softball needed to attend the meeting on Dec 5th to discuss the high school field.

At the Dec 19th CPC meeting Park and Recreation will have thirty minutes to present the formal proposal requesting funds for renovation of the girls’ high school softball field, design and planning funds for Davis and Featherland. It was felt that perhaps Gerald Quirk and representatives from girls’ softball should attend that meeting due to the amount of questions that are expected on the proposal.

All Commissioners present planned to attend both the Dec 5th and Dec 19th meeting.

Bobby stated that if for some reason Recreation was unable to present at the Dec 19th meeting, the next CPC meeting is scheduled for Jan 16th, and the last available date to present is Jan 30th.

The Commissioners discussed the need to present the CPC request as a whole. It should not be seen that the girls' softball field is more important than the funds requested for Davis and Featherland. Paul stated he has made it very clear that it is not Recreation's responsibility to fix the high school field. He is not opposed to requesting the funds from CPC, but feels it is important to include the funds for Davis and Featherland. It is also important to get an inter-municipal agreement from LSRHS in regard to use of the softball field by the various users groups in town.

A discussion took place on what the Commissioners wanted to present on Dec 5th - Wednesday night. Dick Williamson commented on Jody Kablack's question in an email regarding no mention of recreation development on the Melone Property in the Recreation long range plan. At that point, Bobby read Jody's email to the Commission. Mentioned in the email were potential Park and Recreation plans from the past such as a spray park at Haskell, sidewalk development, bathroom renovations at the various fields, potential rail trail development costs, etc.

Paul commented he felt the Melone Property was still questionable to plan for recreation needs in the near future. Dick said he was present at a meeting with a consultant, hired by the town, and there were some questions on what could actually be developed on the Melone property.

The Commissioners agreed that potential recreation development of the Melone property should be included somewhere in the Recreation long range plan. The Commissioners felt it was difficult to plan when it is unclear how the town wants to develop the property. The Commissioners agreed that a design, field planning expense should be included in the Recreation long range plans. Nancy McShea will be asked to update the Recreation Capital Plans to include funds for the Melone property in 2015.

Dick expressed concerns over development at Davis. He felt that the Gale study suggested that the Melone property was a better solution for new field development. Paul stated he understood Dick's concern regarding development of Davis and the Radio Flyer activity on the field. The plan is to renovate Davis to make better use of the field that is already owned by the town.

Paul asked Dick for a little background on the Radio Flyers and their use of Davis field. Dick responded that the group includes about 200 members and of that about 12 are from Sudbury. Davis field is the best field due to the size of the planes and wide open space. He commented that the field is also used by for rocket launches several times a year along with a group that uses the field as a place to walk their dogs. He stated he also speaks regularly with Sandy Moore, of youth soccer, to check when the field is not being used by youth soccer.

Paul understood Dick's concerns, but stated the goal is to have Davis be a more useful field for the town.

Park and Recreation Commissioners/Elections – Todj reported that an email from Rosemary Harvell, the Town Clerk, indicated that in the 2013 Town Elections there will be 4 openings for the Park and Recreation Commission. There will be 2 three year and 2 two year terms.

Fairbank Study Commission – Dick reported that the group, established after the new roof for the Fairbank building was voted down, walked through the Fairbank Community Center with Jim Kelly and David Levington. The building is very awkward as a community center due to the fact the existing old school building was added on to over the years. Jim Kelly said there are limitations to renovation of the building due to the way it was originally constructed. There is talk of moving the school department out and into the Flynn building or Town Hall, once the Town Hall is renovated. Jim Kelly also talked about the possibility of putting a pitched roof over the flat roof currently on the Fairbank building. Another thought is to construct a new building. Park and Recreation's use of the building, if the school department is moved out, was discussed. It would be possible to have several more activity rooms for programs and more space for such things as the summer camp programs, a weight room and other potential recreational activities. It was suggested that Dick contact Nancy McShea to see how she would like to see a renovated building used for recreation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.