

Town of Sudbury  
Park and Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2012

Present: Commissioners- Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Dick Williamson, Nancy McShea-P&R  
Director  
Bob Salsberg, Men's Softball

**Men's Softball** – Bob Salsberg presented his concerns regarding field permit fees and the increases in 2012. He plays in a “very casual” men's softball league that plays 4 games a season. In the past, the team paid hourly for the field time, but due to the new permit fee structure his team must pay per person. About 40% of his team is from Sudbury and the rest are from out of town (which pay a higher per person fee). The team used to pay \$50 per hour for the field, but now must pay \$30 per resident and \$60 per non-resident. This increases their permit fee “dramaticall” due to the fact they have about 16 men who are on the team roster, but don't play every game.

Bobby Beagan inquired how many teams this new policy affects in this manner and Nancy responded all the adult teams, although most adult teams play more than 4 games per season.

It was suggested by the Commission that the team **only** pay for the estimated number of people that would actually show up to play the games. If only 12-14 men regularly show up to play, then the team should only pay for that number and distribute the total fee among all of their players. This will reduce the per person rate for Bob's team. Bob felt that was a good adjustment and said he would send his check to Nancy the following week.

**Gale Study** – Paul G. reported that the contract has been signed and the study is underway. The study should take about two and half months to complet and the cost is \$19,500. Nancy commented it will be interesting to see what Gale reports on the field usage needs since the youth leagues numbers are down from last year.

**Rail Trail** – It was reported that the meeting the previous night on the rail trail and whether the Town of Sudbury should accept money from the Friends of the Rail Trail generated a quagmire of opinions. It was stated that we would find out how the town residents feel about the funding after the Town Vote next Monday.

**Field Enterprise Fund** – Nancy stated she has been watching the Field Enterprise revenue numbers and it is apparent now that the projected revenue numbers will not be met in FY12. The projected revenue number was \$309,000, but the number now projected is \$185,000. The expectations will have to be adjusted for FY13. The revenue number will be missed due to an error in calculation due to the change from a Revolving Fund to an Enterprise Fund, the increase in permit fees, which may have caused teams to go elsewhere to rent fields, and a reduction in youth league rosters.

Nancy stated that she would be meeting with the Financial Director and Town Accountant on Monday regarding FY12 and FY13 Field Enterprise numbers. Paul stated he would be interested in attending the meeting if it was felt that would be appropriate.

Nancy stated that many users will not rent Cutting Field for \$100 an hour. It was suggested by the Commission to reduce the fee for the Spring/Summer to \$50 in order to generate some revenue. It was thought that it would be better to lower the fee in order to make sure the field in used.

Jim Marotta expressed his concern again that money is not being put aside to cover expenses associated with turf field replacement costs. The Commission voted in the past to take \$5 out of every permit fee and put it in a Cutting Field turf replacement account. Nancy explained that after discussion with the Town Accountant this could not be done during the season. All leagues would have to be notified ahead of time on how the field permit fees would be used, and the change should not occur without advance notice. Also any donations toward the Cutting Field replacement costs would have to be accepted by the Selectmen and placed in a separate donation account. It was also discussed that the LSRHS turf field was supposed to have a separate account set up for permit fees generated from use of the Community field. Although the field has been rented over the years an account has not been set up for those permit fees. It is unclear what account the permit fees are going into at this time. It was stated that Maureen Valente and the Selectmen should be made aware of that since CPA money was used to renovate the field and it too will have to be replaced at some time in the future.

**Misc.** – Dick Williamson reported that he met with residents that walk their dogs at Davis to let them know about the plans for Davis. He said the residents had heard about the Gale Study, so he wanted to let them know what was going on. He reported that they weren't as worried after he updated them on the plans. Paul asked Dick not speak on behalf of the Commission in respect to plans for Davis. He should speak as a resident. Paul also offered it would be better if they had concerns that they come to a Commission meeting and hear from the entire Park and Recreation Commission.

Nancy brought up a potential revenue increase to Commission. The current tennis court rental fee is \$5.00 per court and has been that amount since 2004. Neighboring towns charge between \$10 and \$15 per court. The Commission was in agreement to raise the fee to \$10 per court effective spring of 2012.

**A motion was made to increase the tennis court fee at Featherland and Feeley from \$5 to \$10 per hour effective immediately. The motion received a second.**

The motion was approved by 4-0.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2012 at 6:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm