

Draft

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2014

Present: Commissioners- Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Mike Ensley
Meeting started at 6:30pm.

Minutes from June 30, 2014 will be voted on at the next meeting.

Public Comment - none

Park and Recreation Policy -Nancy distributed a memo regarding fee pricing and public policy at the Park and Recreation/Atkinson Pool facility. Jim Marotta asked if this was an existing policy or brand new and if our policies are similar to other towns. Nancy stated our fee structure is similar to other towns and what she presented is an existing policy except for the section on collection of signatures at the Fairbank Community Center. Nancy explained that earlier in the year someone was collecting signatures in front of the doors of the Fairbank building and was unfortunately blocking campers and members from using the facility. The new policy states anyone collecting signatures must be located a specific distance from the front doors.

Nancy explained the Park and Recreation Refund policy and camp refund policy, which charges a higher refund fee and then no refund after a specified date to the Commissioners.

Paul Griffin asked if this policy also applied to fields and Nancy responded that the field refund policy was different.

A motion was made to approve the Park and Recreation Fee policy. A second was received and the motion was approved 4-0.

Skating Rink/Hockey Rink - Commissioners discussed the plans for the skating rink for this winter. Mike E. stated that it has been difficult to maintain ice during the winter. Last winter the weather was excellent for ice and it was difficult to maintain the ice. The current parking lot at Featherland isn't working, the pavement appears to be too porous. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of using the basketball court at the Fairbank Community Center. It was stated that the pitch on the court would be a problem for the ice.

A rink built on the grass at upper Featherland was also discussed, but Nancy said that could not only ruin the grass, but if we have a bad winter the mounds of snow piled up to make the rink that would have to melt could delay use of the field in the spring. There was also discussion on using tarps and building a rink, similar to what many build in their back yards or the rinks in Weston center.

Nancy stated she would discuss this topic with Chris Felt to see what he thought would work at Featherland. The Commissions will also investigate how to make this work in the winter and will discuss at another meeting.

Davis Field - Bobby asked if Gale had presented a plan for Davis. Nancy responded that she did have a plan from Gale. Jim stated that three locations were discussed for the 4 little league fields being discussed; TI-Sales, Davis, and Melone. Paul stated that TI-Sales should be removed as an option. It does not have an easy in and out access and too many ticks/mosquitos. Jim Marotta also stated that Debbie Dineen, Conservation, feels that TI-Sales will be difficult due to the wetlands issues and parking.

Bobby B. asked if there was a drop off in the numbers for baseball registration. Mike E. stated there was a little drop off, but not significant at this time.

Paul stated that Davis makes the most sense as the location for the 4 little league fields. Bobby asked to see a plan/layout for the field. Nancy showed the Commissioners Gale's plan for Davis, which showed 4 little league fields, a large area for a rectangular field and open field space.

Nancy informed the Commissioners that they need to appoint a commissioner to the Melone Advisory Committee. Bobby nominated Mike Ensley as the representative. Jim M. seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

Field Planning - Commissioners discussed different ways to fund field development and how many articles to present at the next town meeting. Should they present one article, bundling all development together, or separate the options and give the voters a choice. It was stated that the Town has many items that will be presented at Town meeting and if field articles are to be approved the user groups will have to drive the interest in getting them passed. The Commissioners decided to hold a public forum to present field development plans to the user groups and public and get their comments and generate interest.

Paul stated that holding this forum as early as possible will allow the Commissioners to see what the interest or problems will be in the plans being presented. The tentative thoughts were to present two plans. One plan would be to purchase lights for several turf fields in town, Cutting and the two lower turf fields at the LSRHS. Lights will extend the playing time on the fields for multiple user groups. The other article would be the development of Davis field.

Nancy will investigate field grants that might be available. Jim M. will come up with concrete plans regarding the open forum and planning for Davis. It was decided to hold another Commission meeting on September 15th, at 6:30pm. The open forum meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 29th at 7:00pm.

Misc. - Bobby B. stated that he would like to make sure that the Commission keeps the non-traditional users groups involved in the planning at Davis. He stated that now that he is a dog owner and uses Davis field he wants to make sure that the Commission is open and up front with the different groups that use Davis Field. He would like to make sure the lines of communication are kept open. He would like to see the Commission pick a plan that keeps the feel of Davis as it is now.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm. Next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2014.