

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 18th, 2015

Present: Commissioners- Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Mike Ensley, Dick Williamson
Guests: Mara Huston - Joe Laferrera, Ralph Tyler, Rich Landrigan, Mark O'Neil,

Meeting started at 6:30pm.

Minutes from last meeting approved 4-0

Public Comment:

Mara Huston spoke on the increase in the Atkinson Pool fees effective July, 1, 2015. Ms. Huston stated she has been renting lanes to teach private lessons at the Atkinson pool since 2011 and has a good working relationship with the staff. She requested that the Commission revisit the increase in renting lanes at Atkinson Pool. The increase is 15%, which is substantial, but she also stated the rounding up feature of the new policy will actually be a 33% increase to her. Ms. Huston presented the Commissioners with information on her current fees. She also stated that she uses the pool between 1 and 3 which is a time during the day when the pool isn't busy. She stated she is providing a service to residents of Sudbury. Ms. Huston stated she makes the Aquatic Asst. Director aware of her schedule and informs him when she will not be using the lanes. Ms. Huston distributed back up material on her lessons and pricing. The Commissioner's stated they will review the information and put this discussion on next month's Park and Recreation Commission agenda.

Davis Update – Jim Marotta stated that the town had voted not to fund the work at Davis with CPC funds at the recent Town Meeting. He stated that it was not an edict on what to do with Davis. The Conservation Committee and Planning Board meetings were already scheduled. Many of the residents in attendance stated they came to the Commission meeting to see what the Commission was going to discuss in terms of Davis and future plans. Ralph Tyler stated that he thought he heard there would no sports fields at Davis and his hope would be that money would not be spent on changes to Davis but instead the time and money spent on developing the Melone property as a sports field.

Jim M. agreed that the plan for Davis as presented at Town Meeting will not move forward, but that it didn't mean that Davis would not be used for sports or that work would never be done at Davis.

Rich Landrigan stated that he felt that doing any work at Davis would go against the spirit of the vote at the Town Meeting.

Paul G. explained that Davis has been a recreation field for quite a while and it is heavily used by soccer. As the need for more fields has grown it is apparent that Davis will need to be used in some capacity. He did say that any plan at this time would not include baseball fields. He also stated that the Melone property has been reviewed in the past and could be a great site but the town has not decided how they want to use the land at this time.

Nancy informed the Commissioners that she had to leave the meeting to attend the Conservation Committee meeting, but asked the Commissioners to vote on withdrawing the Notice of Intent with the Con/Committee.

A motion was made and a second received:

The Park and Recreation Commission voted to withdraw the NOI and Storm Water application with the Conservation Committee until a later date. The motion was approved 4-0.

Joe LaFerrera wanted to clear up any misconceptions that his emails may have caused. He also stated that he and the other residents would like to put their efforts at looking at other fields for development and leave Davis as is, an open space.

Paul stated that the Commission is trying to solve a need for more fields now and Melone is years away from development. Davis is a great recreation field and they are looking at improving the field that is already being used.

Mark O'Neil stated he was an open space advocate and just because you can do something with the field doesn't mean it should be developed.

Sally O'Neil stated that she has lived in Sudbury for over 36 years and feels all that matters in town is sports. She would like to see the Recreation Commission show interest in the parks and open space. She stated that Davis is a unique and beautiful field and would not like to see any changes made to the field.

Mike Ensley stated he wanted to clarify that the Park and Recreation Commission has done a great deal of work and research on field availability in town and is trying to match that up with the needs of the youth and adult groups that request to use the fields during the year.

Joe LaFerrera stated that the ideal situation would be to develop Melone as a recreation site and keep Davis as an open space. If Davis is to be improved at all, he would not like to see concession stands, bathrooms or any permanent fixtures at the site.

Discussion followed on the history of the Melone site and the possibilities of getting the Selectmen to move forward on making a decision on how to use the field for the best interest of the Town.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.