

September 12, 2016  
Commission Minutes

Bobby Beagan, Dick Williamson, Mike Ensley, Jim Marotta, Kayla McNamara, Aquatics, Park and Recreation Director.

Minutes from August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 approved 4-0.

**Public Comment:** None

**Fairbank Task Force** – Commission discussed the need for a Park and Recreation Commission statement for the Fairbank Task Force. The statement would give guidance and include input from the Park and Recreation Director as to the actual needs of the department for the new facility. Points of discussion included the actual number of rooms needed and the change to multi-purpose rooms from rooms designated for sole purpose. Bobby Beagan questioned the pool needs – renovation or new? Jim Marotta stated that a true analysis hasn't really been completed to determine the actual cost based on the actual needs for the Town, Park and Recreation, Atkinson Pool and Senior Center. Bobby Beagan also asked if the cost of security for the new facility had been discussed. Kayla asked that the Commission statement included a request for the least displacement of the current programs as possible. Her concern is that the loss of programs for a long period of time would negatively impact the Park and Recreation future.

The Commission voted 4-0 to approve the Park and Recreation Commission Community Center position statement as amended. (see Jim for amended statement).

**Park and Recreation Commission Capital Items** – the Commission discussed consulting money needed for community needs assessment capital plan.

After discussion the list of capital plan needs in order of importance are as follows;

1. Install a new pour and play surface on the entire Haskell playground – FY18
2. A community needs assessment (consulting funds needed for the capital planning process) FY18
3. Create more usable playing field space – this includes multi-purpose rectangular fields as well as baseball fields, particularly small diamond baseball fields. FY19
4. Replace Cutting Field. FY19
5. Renovate, redevelop or replace the Fairbanks Center with a facility that has utility equal to or greater than that of the current facility. FY19
6. Install lighting at turf fields. FY19
7. Replace the Featherland tennis courts with an appropriate mix of courts – CPC, FY19
8. Continue to explore recreational development at the Melone property – FY18 Selectmen

It was stated that LSRHS is going to request replacing Turf 1 and 2 at the high school during the summer of 2017. Mike Ensley asked if the Commission should look into replacing Cutting at the same time. There was also discussion about putting lights on Turf 1 and 2 to help with the requests for fields. Jim Marotta stated he would reach out to the Town Manager and express his concerns regarding this issue.

Kayla mentioned to the Commissioners that the Featherland Tennis courts may be put on as a capital item in the Selectmen's budget for FY18.

The Commissioners were concerned because this request was put to a vote to the town this past spring and was defeated. The Commission still has some concern with the actual need for the courts at Featherland.

A motion was made to approve the list of capital plan needs by the Park and Recreation Commission. This motion was approved 4-0.

Mike offered to gather data on user groups for the assessment study. He mentioned having kids with drones take pictures of the fields. It is important to go to the user groups to get better data for the actual needs.

Mike also asked about the process that has to be followed to name a field. He stated the youth baseball organization would like to name a field in the name of Matthew Bardsley, a young man who passed away a number of years ago. Kayla stated he would have to contact the Town Manager.

Dick Williamson mentioned the Commission has to appoint a representative to the Rail Trail. He stated he would be interested in being the representative. The other commissioners did not have an issue with his request, but asked if he would have any conflicts of interest. He stated that there would not be and that only abutters to the proposed rail trail could not be on the committee. Jim stated the request to appoint Dick would have to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm