

## Commission Meeting 04/24/17

Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Dick Williamson, Mike Ensley (arrived at 7:30), Mara Huston  
Guests: Peter Soule, Carlo Lepordo, Tracy Berry, Kate McKinnon, Mark Spector

Minutes from the March Commission meeting reviewed and approved 4-0

Park and Recreation Update: Kayla discussed the Town Meeting presentations. Mara will present the Featherland Tennis CPC proposal. The Haskell CPC Playground proposal will not go forward. Kayla informed the Commission that a motion is required to indefinitely postpone the article.

Jim Marotta made a motion to indefinitely postpone Article 28, the Park and Recreation CPC submission for resurfacing at the Lyons Pride/S.M.I.L.E Haskell Field Playground. The motion received a second. Motion approved 4-0.

Kayla reported that she has interviewed several candidates for the Youth Coordinator and she expects to have the position filled by the summer.

Additional part-time staff, lifeguards, front desk, continue to be hired.

Kayla reported that the Feely tennis courts have surface cracks and the Haskell basketball courts have the same large cracks. These may become safety issues. The fences at Cutting may also need to repair. The fence on one side is starting to curl up at the bottom, and temporarily fixed by tying the fence down.

Kayla reported the Fairbank Task Force will move forward with a new RFP.

Kayla distributed the draft of the new Field Permit to the Commissioners. She asked the Commissioners to send their comments to her within the next few days.

**Men's Softball:** Carlo Lepordo and Peter Soule discussed the light fees and user fees. Men's softball has come before the Commission several times in the past to discuss fees. Carlo stated the light fees at Featherland were increased in the past and it was their understanding they were paying enough to cover their light expense. He said they currently pay \$25 an hour at 2.5 hours a night for 93 games would be \$2,900.

Mara suggested a meter on the lights to track usage. Carlo said there are timers on the lights now. Kayla stated the rate for light usage does not have to be \$50 an hour but somewhere in between. Light fees from Eversource go up every year, so the rate needs to increase to cover the costs.

Bobby Beagan made a motion to increase the seasonal light fee for users at Featherland and Feely from \$25 an hour to \$35 an hour. The motion received a second. Motion approved 4-0.

Men's and Women's softball season crosses the defined spring/summer season timeframe of the Park and Recreation field permit. Women's softball also has a fall season. The groups are requesting that

their schedule be viewed as one season not two. Their rosters do not change. The women would pay for the fall schedule as another season.

After discussion, Jim Marotta made a motion to change the field permit application.

All users will pay a seasonal fee with the exception of Men's and Women's softball, who will pay one fee for their continuous season with the same roster, which begins the last week in April and runs through August. The motion received a second.

The motion passed 5-0.

**Haskell Field Baseball Fence:** Mark Spector reviewed the fence requirements for Haskell Field. He stated they might put a fabric wrap on the fence that says youth baseball. Jim cautioned him not to put any signage up at this time given the Town Bylaws.

Park and Grounds requested a green safety topper on the fence, but Commission felt the yellow would be more visible.

Baseball will be responsible for the expense of installing the fence and all other expenses associated with the fence. Mark stated he would speak with Kayla about the money spent on the field and maintaining the field.

**Rail Trail Advisory Committee:** Bobby reported a presentation was made to the Board of Selectmen three weeks ago. A recommendation was made to make the path 10 ft. wide and paved. In addition, the recommendations presented to the Board of Selectmen included; a boardwalk to minimize the impact on wetlands and safety lights at road crossings.

Bobby stated there are still a few dangerous spots on the path, specifically Hudson road and Panty Road. He felt that Park and Recreation, Police and the DPW would have to monitor the traffic in certain areas and address that in the future.

**Fairbank Task Force:** Michael Ensley stated the Fairbank Task Force will proceed with a RFP and hire a third party to frame the project and developed the financial numbers.

Discussion on the impact to Park and Recreation and Atkinson Pool if the facility has to be shut down during the renovation. The lost revenue while the facility is shutdown may never return. Jim stated that the Commission would need to be confident in the financials and facility plan in order to stand up in front of Town Meeting and support the article.

**CPC Articles:** Mara H. is presenting Article 29 the Featherland Tennis Court Reconstruction. Mara ran through her presentation. She will speak to the historical perspective, research on Sudbury user, benefits of recreation, multi-sport offerings at the location, etc. along with the proposal details of 4 tennis courts, 4 half-court basketball courts and 2 pickle ball courts. The Commission gave suggestions on editing the presentation to make it clearer and suggested she use fewer words and more pictures in her presentation.

**Park and Recreation Chairman:** Jim M. stated he is stepping down as Park and Recreation Chairman.

Mara stated she would be interested in the future, but felt she was too new to the Commission at this time. Dick Williamson stated he was not interested. Bobby Beagan stated he was interested, but does not have the time currently.

Michael Ensley said he would accept the nomination of Chairman if Jim wants to step down. Michael is interested in the new Fairbank RFP, long-term capital planning, understanding the Recreation finances and funding.

Motion made and seconded to nominate Michael Ensley to be the Park and Recreation Chairman.  
Motion approve 5-0.

The discussion on projects postponed to a later meeting.

Meeting was adjourned 8:45pm.