

DRAFT

Commission Meeting
August 28th, 2017

Bobby Beagan, Michael Ensley, Mara Huston, Jim Marotta, Kayla McNamara-Dir Park and Recreation
Guests: Kate Marchand, (women's softball), Chris Felt (Park and Grounds), Bill Miles (Fire Chief)

Minutes from June 28, 2017 approved 3-0
Minutes from August 7, 2017 approved with corrections 4-0

Kayla reported she told Chris Felt to paint Pickleball lines on one tennis court at Feeley field.

Fire Station Relocation – Chief Miles informed the Commission that he would be presenting an article at the fall town meeting requesting funds to renovate the fire station located on route 20. If approved, a temporary location for the route 20 fire station will be required and he would like to locate it at Feeley field. The plan is to rent a temporary facility for the fire trucks and ambulance. A trailer will be rented for the staff. He investigated other options, but ended up with Feeley as the best location since it is near route 20 and has easy access to water. He would like to locate the temporary facility next to the upper Feeley bathrooms. The temporary site is requested for approximately one year.

Kate Marchand asked if the Highway department would be clearing out trees to get easy access to the road. Chief Miles said that was not the plan. The batting cages might have to be relocated. Kate asked how the fire trucks would get out in an emergency. The chief stated a plan would have to be developed for the fire trucks to leave the parking lot during the softball season. The Chief also stated they could make accommodations such as locating the trucks at the Hudson Road fire station during the softball season evenings.

The Commission and Ms. Marchand stated the biggest concern was parking and safety of the people using the fields. The Chief stated they were trying to come up with the best solution and trying to save the town money during the renovation.

The Commission made a motion to accept the Fire Department plan to relocate the south fire station to Feeley Field as long as parking is maximized, safety precautions are in place and the batting cages are relocated so softball can still use them.

The motion received a second and was approved 4-0.

LS Community Field – The Commission reported that it appears LSRHS will proceed with their plan to submit an article for the fall town meeting requesting funds to renovate the Community turf field. The Commissioners stated their concern that Cutting is an older turf field and should be renovated before the LSRHS Community Field and the two groups should be working together to get both fields renovated. Pat Brown did inform the Selectmen of the Park and Recreation Commission's concerns regarding renovating the turf fields.

Mara stated she felt the Park and Rec Commission needed to do something to stop LSRHS from submitting an article at the fall Town meeting.

Kayla said the LSRHS turf renovation was always on the FY19 capital plan.

The Commission discussed getting Town Counsel involved to review the Inter-Municipal Agreement and get an opinion on how the Town parties should proceed.

The Commission discussed the need to have an independent contractor look at both the LSRHS field and Cutting field. Chris Felt stated he had someone who could look at both fields.

Mara stated she would like to work with the high school to get both fields renovated.

The Commission also discussed the \$250,000 and when it would be received by the town. Both Kayla and Michael stated they would contact the Town Manager to check the status on the funds.

The Commission agreed to submit an article for the fall town meeting to request funds for Cutting Field. Mike stated he would prepare something to get a placeholder on the warrant with an estimate of \$600,000.

Chris Felt offered his concerns and requests, regarding the Parks and Grounds Department, to the Park and Recreation Commission –

1. The Cutting field fence is in need of repair. He estimated the cost to be around \$9,000.
2. Feeley Tennis Courts - cracks need repair - estimated the cost is \$4,000
3. Curtis Softball field – infield needs work, this can be done town employees.
4. Featherland Softball field – only field not irrigated – estimated cost is \$16,000.
5. A second well at Haskell – estimated cost is \$40,000.
6. Upper Haskell field treatment – estimated cost is \$9,000.

Mike stated he has a meeting scheduled for September 10, 2017 with the presidents of the youth leagues will bring the field treatment topic up for discussion. He stated the meeting was very informal but a good opportunity to discuss field operations with the user groups.

7. Chris stated it would be great to have the trash barrels picked up again by a paid service. The estimated cost is \$16,000.
8. Chris would also like to see the Field Enterprise Fund only pay for summer help salaries not half of the salaries of the Park and Grounds full-time staff.

Kayla and Chris informed the Commission that the SMILE playground is a real safety concern. The current surface is being disrupted by tree roots. One of the play structures has fraying components and needs repair. The Commission discussed relocating and building a new playground rather than renovating the current playground. Bobby Beagan offered that the schools are looking for funding from CPA to renovate all the playgrounds.

Featherland Update – Mara stated she thought that after she met with Dan Nason, DPW Director, that he would be doing the schematics for the new tennis courts. Chris Felt said he did not think that was Dan's understanding and did not think anything had been done. Kayla stated she did not hear of anything started regarding the Featherland tennis courts.

Budget Review – Kayla said she would be happy to report on the budget, but stated she would need to know what the Commission was looking for in terms of information and would need a few days notice.

Other – Fairbank Task Force – Jim Marotta stated a new feasibility study would be done by a new company. He felt this company has a better understanding of what is required/needed in a Recreation/Community Center.

Michael stated the Town is looking at the Melone Property and asked if anyone from the Park and Recreation Commission wanted to be the representative. Mara said she would like to be the representative. October 3rd is meeting on Melone.

Kayla stated that all summer camps went well. She also informed the Commission that she is planning to revamp the summer program next year.

Meeting adjourned 8:40pm