

December 18, 2017
Commission Meeting

Dick Williamson, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Mara Huston Mike Ensley
Kayla McNamara
Guests: Jean Nam

Public Comment: Jean Nam watched the last Park and Recreation Commission meeting and wanted to offer support for the Haskell playground renovation. Jean stated the Haynes playground renovation is in progress with the vote from the fall Town meeting. Funding for the remaining elementary playgrounds will be requested for renovations in 2019. Jean is encouraging a pull back on doing all three playgrounds at once, but rather spreading them out to reduce the capital request.

Jean Nam offered that Play Sudbury (under SMILE) would assist in the fundraising for the Haskell playground and said it is their goal to bring all playgrounds up to code.

Jim Marotta asked if the Park and Recreation Commission voted on the CPC Haskell playground request. Kayla said the request was based on the CPC request from last year that was pulled before going to Town meeting.

Bobby would like clarification on the tree removal at the Haskell playground and the root issues. Jim said his issue is there is not a good plan currently in place for the renovation and no organization for the project.

Kayla said she asked Dan Nason (DPW Director) to fill out the forms for the CPC request since she will be out on maternity leave. She asked it be submitted because it could be pulled if the Commission decided not to go forward with the request.

Jim stated he confirmed that any CPC request for Haskell Playground would affect the total funds given to Recreation projects in the future, which may influence requests for field development. Jim believes Cutting Field is the number one priority and the Commission can pull the CPC article if that is the decision.

Bobby stated he was okay with delaying work on the Haskell Playground as long as it does not cause safety issues.

Mara does not think the Commission should pull the CPC request until they hear back from Dan.

Melone Update - Bob Haarde reached out to the Park and Recreation Commission for guidance and comment on the opportunities at the Melone property. Jim said two multipurpose rectangular fields would be helpful. Jim reported that Dan Nason, when asked, said any new fields at Melone would require two new employees for the Park and Grounds Department. The Commission questioned if that was for turf or grass fields.

Jim stated that the Board of Selectmen are looking for needs and guidance for fields at Melone. Kayla stated there is a real need for field space in the spring season, the fall is not as bad, but there is always a need to rest the fields, which is currently difficult to do.

The next step is to find out the planning process from Melissa and to get something more substantial and quantitative regarding field space at Melone and elsewhere.

Featherland Update - The design is pending per DPW. Kayla will discuss with Dan and get the status. Kayla distributed a layout of the design to the Commission.

Park and Recreation Director Update - Kayla stated the Commission is required to take a vote on funds for Cutting field renovations.

A motion to move forward with the request for funds to replace the artificial turf at Cutting Field. Motion received a second and was approved 5-0.

LSRHS Fee for turf rental - Michael Ensley updated the Commission on his meetings on this issue. He is frustrated by the way the LSRHS notified the users. He does not think it is fair to the current users and does not think LSRHS is being fully transparent as to why they are increasing the fee immediately.

Jim stated if lights are installed at turf 1 and turf 2, there is great potential for more revenue from rentals.

Bobby said he understands the rationale behind LSRHS increasing fees in order to save up for future turf field renovations. However, he felt they could have communicated the plan better and should have contacted Kayla and the Commission before sending out the letter to users.

The Commission discussed its concern that the Community Field IMA has not been updated to include the softball field after CPC money was used for the renovation.

Mara stated the town now has four turf fields and it would be beneficial to the Town if all parties worked together regarding maintenance and renovation schedules. Michael agreed and stated it is in the best interest of everyone to get on the same page and work together. He will let the Commission know what transpires at future meetings.

Misc. - Michael stated his is still planning to resign, but will stay on for now to work on the LSRHS turf issues and Cutting field replacement.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm