

January 22, 2018
Commission Meeting

Attendees: Bobby Beagan, Michael Ensley, Mara Huston, Jim Marotta, Dick Williamson, Julie Harrington, Asst. Park and Recreation Director

Minutes from December meeting reviewed and approved with corrections. 5-0

Featherland Update: Julie informed the Commission that William O'Rourke, Deputy Director of Public Works, was not able to attend but did send her information on the Featherland tennis courts. Julie distributed a sketch showing the layout of the tennis courts. There will be four tennis courts, two will have additional lines for basketball and two will have additional lines for pickle ball. Plans and specs for the courts will be ready for bid by mid-February. Construction expected to be underway by April 2018.

Mara expressed concern about the gates and if they were handicapped accessible.

Michael Ensley asked if they may want to wait to add the pickleball lines later, but they decided to keep them on the original plan.

Julie will relay the comments regarding the missing gate on the sketch of the courts and concern about being handicap accessible to Mr. O'Rourke.

Department Update: Julie informed the Commissioners that Kayla, Dir of Park and Recreation, is now on maternity leave. Ethan Dauphinais, Program Coordinator, was hired.

The Pool Enterprise report will be available at the February meeting. Julie is meeting with the Town Manager regarding the Pool budget.

Michael commented that he would still like to see a quarterly report on the financials for the Field, Pool and Recreation budgets. He will continue to put this report on the agenda. This information is critical in order for the Commission to approve new fee increases. It is also helpful to understand how the field permit money is spent. Julie will work with the Town Manager and request financial reports from the Accounting/Treasurers office. Julie reported that Melissa Rodrigues is planning to attend the February meeting.

Julie and Kayla held the field users meeting on January 9, 2018. Questions and concerns were addressed and Kayla informed the user groups that Kevin Sugermeyer will be in charge of fields/facilities during her absence.

Summer Camps registration will take place on Monday, February 12, 2018 starting at 6:30pm.

The Fairbank Community Task Force will present the plan for the new Fairbank Community Center to the residents on February 1, 2018. Tours of the current facility will be offered.

The Commissioners discussed how to get the word out about the meeting. Julie distributed a flyer that was prepared to inform residents about the meeting. The Commission suggested using social media, perhaps a police sign at Town Center giving notice of the meeting, and submitting an article in the Town Crier/Patch.

Julie distributed the FY2019 Revolving Fund articles for Youth, Teen Center and Recreation for the Commissioners signatures. These articles end up on the consent calendar at the spring Town Meeting.

Barton Drive/Broad Acres Farms/CPC Update: The Barton Drive lot is in a residential lot with access to Stearns Mill Pond. The Commissioners discussed the lot and its access and concerns with neighbors if the Town were to buy the lot and use it for recreational purposes. The Commission thought the town should investigate it further but that it would probably be too difficult to include parking etc.

The south side of Broad Acre Farms, located on Morse Road, is currently up for sale. It is a rolling hill lot. The Commission discussed the north side, which is closer to Featherland field, and how they would be interested in that lot if it became available. Dick informed that there are no heirs to the owners of the land so it is unclear if the horse farm that is currently on the land will continue to operate.

CPC - Bobby also expressed frustration with the Commission's roll within the Town. He would like to see the Recreation Director be more active in working with the Town Manager to be more proactive when land becomes available and push for it to become recreational land if suitable. He would like to see Recreation become more active in the plans for the Town space. Bobby explained his term is up this spring and is currently deciding if he should run again. He stated he is very frustrated with the lack of accomplishments of the Commission. Jim Marotta's term is also up this spring and he stated he is not sure if he will run again.

Fairbank Task Force - Planned for February 1, 2018, presentation of the Consultants plan after input from the surveys filled out by the residents and input from Recreation and Council on Aging. There will be tours and a question and answer period after the presentation. The Consultant will make recommendations on how to move forward for the Town Meeting after the presentation.

Jim Marotta stated he felt the latest process with the consultant was much better than the first. He felt there was still a long way to go, 4 to 5 years, to get a new building operational and questioned if the existing building could last that long.

The estimated cost of the new community center is \$30 million. The Commissioners advised Julie to include documentation of the current building issues, pictures of roof leaks and any damage. They stated it was important for Recreation and Council on Aging to be on the same page with information in their documentation and tours.

Jim state the consultant's goal is to come up with a plan that is financially agreeable to the Town.

Cutting Field - the Commission must determine the cost to renovate Cutting field and the amount to request from the Town to renovate the turf field. The Commission will follow up with Dan Nason, DPW Director, to get the cost estimate. The Commissioners discussed using the \$250,000 from the Meadow Walk and asking the Town for the remaining funds.

The Commission made a motion to allocate the \$250,000 from the Meadow Walk Development to the cost of replacement turf at Cutting Field.

Motion received a second and approved 5-0.

Other Business - Mara asked if anyone had responded to the email regarding the July 4 road race. Julie stated she will follow up on the email to get more specifics on the race, but did not think it was something the Recreation Department would want to take on at this time. Mara thought someone who was interested in running might want to take it over.

Michael Ensley stated the field stabilization fund would be discussed with the Town Manager at the February meeting.

The importance of LSRHS and Recreation working together and coming up with a plan to maintain the four existing turf was discussed by the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm