

July 16, 2018

Commission Meeting

Commissioners: Michael Ensley, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Mara Huston, Dick Williamson

Guests: Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, Town Manager, Mary Ellen Clark, Zap Diving, Chrissy Murray, Sudbury Swim Team, Lucinda Lagasse, Donna Dodson, Shirley Huettig

Minutes from June 25, 2018 meeting reviewed and approved.

Public Comment: Shirley Huettig expressed concern that the track and field program she registered her daughter this summer was cancelled with very little notice. Ms. Huettig was informed that the Program Coordinator and Asst. Director resigned just before the start of summer, so some of the program cancellations due to low enrollment were done without as much notice as in the past due to a reduction in full time staff.

Fees & Rates – Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues distributed financial reports for the Pool and Field Enterprise Funds for the Commissioners review.

The Field Enterprise Fund improved in FY 18 due to the increase in the permit fee. Retained earnings were not used this year.

In March, she brought to the Commissioners attention her concerns about the Pool Enterprise Fund Budget. At that time, she recommended both budget cuts and a rate increase to bridge the revenue gap projected for FY19. She recommended not filling the vacant Aquatic Supervisor position and shifting those responsibilities to other full time employees and part time help. The portion of the Director's salary and benefits currently in the Pool Enterprise Fund would be removed in FY19. Melissa also recommended a 6 percent increase across the board. The Pool Enterprise Fund has not improved from the March meeting and fell short of meeting the projected FY18 budget, so additional retained earnings were used to offset the deficit. Melissa stated without an increase in the fees the town would have to look at other ways to reduce the expenses at the pool such as reduced hours and reduced staff.

Jim Marotta referenced his previous question to Melissa about needing lifeguards at the pool at all times. Melissa responded that the Town's insurance company would not be comfortable insuring the pool without lifeguards. The liability issues would be too great. Melissa stated another option for the pool would be to put it out to bid and see if a private company would want to come in and run the facility. The Town would have to give up some control.

Melissa said that without an increase to the Pool rates the Department of Revenue would not certify the budget and they would have to reduce the hours at the pool.

She stated that moving forward she would recommend smaller increases each year.

Mara asked if the MIAA had been notified that the pool ventilation issue that occurred during the DCL meet had been corrected.

The Commissioners also discussed finding out why the revenue is down, why the drop off in swim lessons, and birthday parties.

Lucinda Lagasse asked if there was any interest in fundraising for the pool. She felt the members who have used the pool for years would be open to fundraising. Commissioners talked about a Friends of the Pool organization.

Christie Murray said the Sudbury Swim Team (approximately 150 kids) uses the pool 4 night a week and on Sundays for swim meets. She felt the residents would be devastated if the pool closed.

Mara agreed that the pool was a huge asset to the Sudbury community and the non-residents that use the pool.

Mary Ellen Clark agreed that increased marketing would help bring more people to the pool. She also stated she does not want to pay when she is on deck stretching with her students.

Chrissy Murray questioned why some groups are scheduled to pay less for lane rentals. She said the increase has gone up significantly over the past few years from \$18, \$23, \$25 and now she is looking at \$27 per hour for the lane rental.

The only group that will pay less for lane rental is LSRHS team and that is because it is the high school swim team.

Melissa stated she would like to see the pool rates increase 2%-3% every year, to go along with the cost of living.

Melissa will generate quarterly revenue/expense reports for the Commission in July, October, January and April.

After discussion was completed, a motion was made and seconded to approve the 6% pool rate increase proposed for July 1, 2018. The motion passed 5-0.

The Commission discussed the idea of holding a public hearing when discussing increasing the pool rates and policies. Melissa stated she would draft something for the Park and Recreation Commission to distribute when holding a public hearing for discussion of rate increases in the future.

Jim Marotta stated it would be beneficial to have all pertinent information well ahead of time when a vote needs to be taken by the Commission.

Kayla will provide user numbers for the Commission as part of the annual review.

Featherland Tennis Courts – construction of the two new tennis courts will be starting this week. Bobby asked if the site for the other two courts would be prepped at this time. Melissa stated that is not the plan at this time.

Misc - Bobby asked if Parks and Grounds was going to line a soccer field at lower Haskell and where the second well will be located.

The Commission will invite Dan Nason to the next meeting.

Bobby would like to see the Recreation land that the Town owns on Barton Road used to launch canoes, kayaks and other sailing vehicles.

Michael stated he would like to step down as Chairman. Discussion among the Commissioners about having a Chair and Vice Chair.

Motion made to elect Bobby Beagan as Chairman and Michael Ensley as Vice Chairman for the Park and Recreation Commission for FY 2019.

Discussion on the Melone Property and if the Commission needs to take a vote on it. The options for Melone include solar, trade Sudbury Station for Melone, and sell to Cavecchio.

Meeting adjourned [at 8:30pm](#).

Amendment: The actual start date of the Featherland Tennis Court renovation is actually August 20, 2018.