

April 29, 2019

Commissioners: Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Michael Ensley

Kayla Wright

Guests: Kate Marchand, Girls Softball, Suzy Malone, Joyce Minkoff, Friends of Teen Center
Pat Brown, Janie Dretler (BOS)

Call to order: 6:39pm

Vote to immediately enter Executive Session to review and vote on meeting minutes from March 18, 2019 Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) "[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements" ("Purpose 7"), citing to the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g).

Vote to close Executive Session and return to regular meeting. 3-0 in favor.

Public Comment: Kate Marchand asked if the Park and Recreation Commission would consider waiving the field permit fee for those that receive a scholarship to play girls softball. Bobby stated he would add that item to the next agenda. Mara Huston suggested reaching out to other field user groups to see how many registrants this would include.

Kate also asked about field improvements to the softball fields. Feeley is wet and they would like to have dugouts on the softball fields.

Director Update: Kayla reported on a Pool issue with the chlorinator. Service has been called to trouble shoot the issue.

Kayla reported that Summer Camp staff is in good shape, Preschool Pals Camp is set, but Sudbury Adventure is not set yet.

New Assistant Director, Frank Livera, started in April. The Pool Coordinator has given his notice and will leave in two weeks. The Youth Coordinator is out and it is unclear when she will return.

Kayla reported that she just received the last check from the swim team season. She is still collecting field payments for FY19.

Pool increases will go in to effect on July 1, 2019.

Bobby Beagan asked Kayla if she knew anymore on the drainage issues at Cutting Field. He asked if there was a specific reason the puddling occurred. He said it was still wet, but not pooling.

Kayla stated she did not know anymore. She suggested that Dan Nason, DPW Director, would know more since his staff was working with the vendors.

Friends of the Jean Lind Teen Center Update: Suzy Malone and Joyce Minkoff informed the Commission of changes to the Teen Center over the year, such as adding more 6th grade events and reducing 8th grade events. They also added Teen Centers after ballroom dancing, which seemed to be a big hit since Friendly's is no longer open. They are working to keep the Teen Center a viable place for kids to go. They assist in funding some of the activities of Teen Center using the funds raised from selling the high school directory.

Town Meeting Article Discussion: Featherland Tennis Courts - Mara reviewed her presentation. Mara said her presentation is similar to the one she did before with updated financials. Commissioners discussed questions that might be asked about the need for additional courts. Janie Dretler asked if anyone from the LSRHS would be able to speak about the need for the Featherland Courts. Mara and Bobby will reach out to the Athletic Director. Jim Marotta suggested an email could be read in support of the JV tennis program.

Michael Ensley stated he still is not sure tennis courts are being used as much anymore.

Commissioner's concern is that Park and Recreation went before the Town asking for money for 4 courts but only built two and are now going before the Town to ask for money for two more courts.

Camp Sewataro: Commissioners discussed concerns regarding the article and why they did not vote in favor. The Commission would like to have seen 3-5 year financials; private verse public camp and the impact to current Park and Recreation programs and facilities; property doesn't support the current Park and Recreation mission, not ADA compliant, no parking, no paved roads; need capital funds to develop the fields; impact of purchase on plans for a new Fairbank Community Center; currently have land designated as Recreation that requires funding to make more useful.

Bobby said he heard people think the purchase of Sewataro will solve all of Park and Recreation requests. Michael stated the Commission might need to respond to questions at Town Meeting on why they voted against the purchase. Bobby will make a slide for the presentation at Town meeting regarding Park and Recreation's response to Sewataro.

Pat Brown offered the Board of Selectman's meeting is at the Police Station on April 30 and there will be a discussion on Camp Sewataro.

Mini-Fenway Concept at Broadacres: Michael Ensley discussed the idea of putting a baseball field on Parcel 1 of Broadacres. He stated that three young men had passed away and Youth Baseball was looking for a way to remember them. The thought was to put a “mini-Fenway” at Broadacres. He wanted to bring up the idea to the Park and Recreation Commission to see if there was any interest. Youth Baseball is looking at ways to raise funds and may be able to get the Jimmy Fund involved with the idea.

Kate Marchand stated that Curtis field was not great for girls’ softball. The clay in the infield is hard to slide on and it is dangerous because the foul balls go into the road. She would like to see a net put up similar to the one at Featherland. She also inquired about how to get Field Enterprise funds to go toward girls’ softball. She asked if money for the proposed “mini-Fenway” would come out of the Field Enterprise fund. Michael said costs for that field would be covered by private funds.

Master Plan: The next meeting will be on May 22 in the LSRHS cafeteria at 7:00pm. Jim Marotta expressed concern that the Commission is not up to date on all the information. Janie Dretler said they are at the very beginning and not much has happened yet.

Fairbank Community Center: Mara reached out to the Town Manager for the status. The School representative was not reelected, so she is waiting to hear who the new representative will be.

Meeting adjourned 8:45pm.

