

July 8, 2019

Bobby Beagan, Mara Huston, Dick Williamson, Jim Marotta

Guests: Frank Livera (Park and Recreation), Janie Dretler (BOS), John Beeler (Council on Aging), Bill Schniller (BOS), Pat Brown (BOS)

Public Comment: None

Director Report: Frank reported summer camps are up and running. Registration for the camps is lower this year.

New Aquatics Coordinator started on July 10.

Bobby Beagan asked if an Asst Director was hired for Sudbury Adventure. Frank informed that Sarah, the Youth Coordinator, will be going on all trips.

Fairbank Working Group Update: The group is of Mara, Jeff Levine, rep from SPS, Janie Dretler, Bill Barletta, and Marianne Bilodeau or Mellissa Rodrigues.

The group started by looking at past information and developed a plan for shared and dedicated space. They are working with an architect to develop a conceptual plan with financial estimates with an expectation of having that completed in October. The current plan is to present an article at the Spring Town Meeting. Mara stated the working group will present their ideas to the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, July 9, 2019.

Mara stated earlier plans had more wants than needs, so this time they are focusing on needs along with shared and dedicated space. She will present the plan to the Commission once the architect's plan is complete.

The Commission discussed how the plan for a new building might be impacted by the plan for Sewataro. The Commission felt it was important to keep the current Fairbank location.

Jim Marotta asked if the group came up with a targeted capital cost. Jim expressed concern regarding staffing costs and operating expenses. Mara said they talked about some numbers but didn't want to discuss figures yet.

Mara stated the Commission would know the numbers before the public presentation in the fall. Dick W. asked if there was a plan to sell the plan to the community. He stated it will be important to educate the community on the need for the building and the associated building expenses. Bobby stated it might be worthwhile to do a community forum before October to generate interest in the building project.

Davis Field Regrading: Bobby stated there was no progress on this project. He will be going out with ConCom, DPW, and Parks and Grounds to see what the exact issues are that need to be addressed before work can be done. It was still unclear when the second payment from the Meadowwalk project will be released. The Commission's plan is to use these funds for the renovation expenses at Davis.

Davis field could not be used much during the spring because it was too wet.

Broadacres was discussed briefly, but it was decided to add this topic to the next Commission meeting.

Sewataro RFP Update: An RFP for use of Camp Sewatrao land as a camp will be voted on at the July 9, 2019 Board of Selectman meeting. The RFP is scheduled to be available on Wednesday, July 10. It is still unclear how the Town will use the land but Bill Schniller stated public access is included in the RFP.

Mara felt the BOS needs to send a clear message that the Fairbank Building is still a great need. Dick W. stated he was very curious how the RFP will allow a private camp to rent the land for summer use while allowing town use at other times. He stated the residents made it clear during the voting process they hoped to use the space for recreation.

Bill stated the RFP includes both needs and that there are 4-5 operators interested in the property to run a camp.

Master Plan Update: The plan is currently in the opinion gathering phase, probably another month before the next phase begins. Bobby asked if the Commission should be involved. Jim Marotta asked Dick to find out when the Park and Recreation's view is needed, Janie stated that the Consultants will be reaching out to the Commission. Jim asked Janie if she knew what questions the Consultants would be asking. Janie stated she would see what she could find out before the Commission meets with the Consultants.

Softball Update: Bobby stated he had no updates at this time. He met with Dan and representatives from Women's softball. It is still not clear where the funds will come from for repairs at the softball fields.

Featherland Tennis Courts Phase 2: The contract is being finalized, but nothing can start until the new Fiscal Year, July 1, 2019.

Misc: Mara asked for the status of the irrigation problems at Curtis. Bobby stated he would follow up with the Park and Grounds Department.

Commissioners discussed the cracks at Feeley Tennis courts and the Haskell basketball courts. Questions on where the money will come from to fix these issues.

Minutes from the last meeting approved with corrections. 4-0.

Jim Marotta asked about the status of Michael Ensley and if he officially resigned as a Park and Recreation Commissioner. If he is going to resign, he will have to contact the Town Clerk and official resign.

John Beeler commented on the Fairbank Community Center working group.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

