

DRAFT

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
December 19, 2019

Attendees: Mara Huston, Dick Williamson, Bobby Beagan, Ben Carmel
Dennis Mannone

Call to Order: 8:00am

Public Comment: None

Special Town Meeting-January 2, 2019 Article 3 - Discussion on the New Sudbury Community Center - \$27.7 million for design, construction and furnishing and to vote on the Commission's position on this article. The Commission also discussed the possibility of voting to indefinitely postpone the article. Mara stated this article was brought to the Town as a Citizen's Petition to move forward with development of the new community center rather than wait for the spring Town Meeting.

After discussion, a motion was made that the Park and Recreation Commission support the Fairbank Community Center's Citizen's Petition. The vote received a second. The Park and Recreation Commission voted 0-4 against the petition. The Park and Recreation Commission clarified they were not against the project, but felt the project needed to be vetted more and more information needed to be distributed to the Town residents before the article is presented at the May Town meeting.

A second motion was made to indefinitely postpone Article 3 if the article is presented at Town Meeting on January 2, 2020.

The motion received a second. The motion passed 4-0 in favor.

Introduction of New Director and Department Update - Dennis Mannone introduced himself to the Commission. Dennis stated he was the Director of the department over 10 years ago. He is starting his 3rd week and working to understand the current issues in the department. The department has severe staffing issues and he is currently in the process of interviewing candidates. He explained the history of the department and some of the staffing issues. He is currently looking for two recreation employees and one pool employee. At this time, he is not planning to hire an Assistant Director.

He is planning to reduce the number of vendor programs run by the department, because too many of the programs offered do not run due to lack of interest and he would rather run fewer programs at a higher level. He is also planning for the summer camp and hopes to have a

brochure out by early February. Dennis will meet with the Board of Health to confirm the summer camp requirements for vendor camps.

Laura Lunig will stay on to assist in the Recreation office until full-time staff is hired. Her hours will be reduced, but will be a great help with planning for Wild Wednesday, the Nashoba Ski program and Teen Center.

Dennis stated he is currently reviewing the Budgets and Field and Pool Enterprise Funds. He is finding invoices that haven't been paid and working to complete everything that was left open. Bobby asked about the Pool status and membership numbers. Mara suggested adding a late fee for invoices that haven't been paid.

Bobby stated he would like to get back to scheduling regular meetings monthly in the new year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50am.