

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
January 13, 2020

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

Guests: Jeff Levine, John Beeler - COA

Call to Order: 6:30pm

Public Comment: None

Director Update: Dennis distributed Revolving Articles for Teen Center, Youth, and Recreation for Commissioner's signatures. These articles are voted on annually at Town Meeting. Dennis also discussed the need to prepare the Commission's annual report. He distributed a copy and will work with the Commission to update last year's report. Bobby asked about the status of the department. Dennis offered he is interviewing to fill the vacant positions. He offered a candidate the position of Program Coordinator and is waiting on a response. He has additional interviews scheduled and is also doing reference checks on candidates that may be offered one of the other Program Coordinator positions

Dennis stated he met with Chris Felt to review fields and Haskell playground. The Haskell playground has issues with tree roots disrupting the surface and causing tripping hazards. Chris is going to contact vendors to see what the costs are to resurface the playground. Dennis mentioned they also discussed digging a new well for Haskell. He will work with the DPW Director to write an RFP. Mara suggested checking the Town Manager's budget, since in the past Town Manager funds were used for field expenses.

Chris Felt used the Town Manager's fund in the past for fertilizing Haskell field in addition to other repairs at the various fields. Chris is currently working with a company to get estimates on filling the cracks and resurfacing Feeley tennis courts and the Haskell basketball court. Money from the Town Manager's budget will pay for those expenses.

Dennis reported that Chris showed him the Broadacres property and the riding stable onsite. He also showed him Davis field and informed him of the plan to renovate and make Davis a more useful field. The plan is to use some of the Meadow Walk funds to achieve this plan.

Fairbank Working Group Update: Mara reported the Selectboard voted to put the new Fairbank Building article on the Town Warrant. The working group also received questions from the BOS regarding financials on the new Community Center. Ben C. will help with public awareness along with Mara and they plan to discuss different topics on the new facility at future Commission meetings.

Ben C. stated it was important to inform and educate the residents on the facility. It is important for residents to know how the current space is used and what programs are running in addition to how everything will operate in the new facility.

The statistics in his presentation were developed using data from programs run in 2018 by Park and Recreation/Atkinson Pool.

Jim Marotta asked what is the bottom line on expenses and who will answer the questions on financials. Jim suggested talking to the FinCom to see what information on the new Community Center they are looking for rather than guess what answers they needed.

John Beeler stated the Council on Aging will have a PowerPoint presentation on January 29th at the Senior Center for seniors and anyone else who wants to attend. He is concerned about the process and feels people need to see what they are going to get for their money and where their taxes are going.

Bobby B. stated the two groups must be on the same page regarding all presentations on the new facility.

Jeff Levine stated one of the biggest concerns is the different business modules for the Town Departments in the Community Center. All of the Senior Center staff is paid off the tax levy and most if not all of their expenses. The School Department expenses are also paid out of tax dollars. Recreation and Atkinson Pool must pay for most of their salaries and all of their expense by the revenue they generate through their programs and pool memberships.

Jim Marotta stated again this is why a financial analysis of the new and current building is so important to determine what the actual cost will be and if the revenue generated is enough to cover the costs along with what the taxes will be for each resident.

Bobby was in agreement with Jim that the FinCom should be contacted to see what financial information they are looking for on the new building. He also suggested inviting someone from FinCom to a Park and Recreation Commission meeting.

Mara said she would email the Working Group and see about reaching out to the FinCom. Bobby said he would also help with that task and reach out to Dan Carty on the BOS.

Mara stated Jean Nam and Bill Schineller may be putting together their own plan on a new Community Center but she has not been contacted and is not aware of what they plan to present.

Review of Recreation/Pool Financials: This topic will be moved to the next meeting.

Master Plan: Dick Williams stated the last meeting did not have enough members for a quorum. Jim Marotta asked Dick for any drafts of meeting minutes so they could see what was

being discussed. Jim asked Dick as the Commission Representative to let the Commission know what is important and then send them the links to the information.

Review of Commission /Park and Recreation Priorities: moved to next meeting

Meadow Walk Funds: These are available now. Bobby stated the Commission may want to use some of these funds for a Field needs analysis to update the field master plan that was done a number of years ago.

Broadacres: Mara asked if the Park and Recreation Commission ever received a report on the open meeting that took place regarding Broadacre usage.

Jim Marotta stated Davis is a field that should be developed.

Minutes from November 14, 2019 and December 18, 2019 approved 5-0

Next meeting scheduled for February 3, 2020 possibly a joint meeting with the COA.

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm