

Remote Phone Meeting – 12:30pm

April 2, 2020

Bobby Beagan, Mara Huston, Jim Marotta

Dennis Mannone, Dir. Park and Recreation/Pool

Guests: Dan Nason, DPW, Scott Nix, Chief of Police

Public Comment: None

Discuss Park and Recreation Commission Policy on Facilities/Fields as related to COVID-19 – Meeting called to vote on an updated Park and Recreation policy for field and recreational facilities restrictions. This measure is required due to increased use at Cutting Field by non-residents and large groups and because the basketball nets that were zip tied at Haskell have been cut in order to be used for basketball.

Motion: To immediately shut down Cutting Field for all public use and allow the DPW and Police to do whatever is necessary to prevent residents and non-residents from using Cutting Field.

Second received from Mara

Vote 3-0 in favor Mara – yes, Jim – yes, Bobby – yes

Dennis suggested the Park and Recreation Commission may want to give him the power to work with the DPW/Police to make decisions regarding fields/recreation facilities without holding emergency Commission meetings and trying to get a quick quorum. Bobby stated that the Town Manager Act would allow the Town Manager to make those decisions if necessary.

Bobby asked Dan how the DPW handled the Haskell basketball nets. Dan reported the Fire Department helped with their bucket truck so his staff was able to remove the rims from the basketball courts at Haskell. Dan stated he was also getting estimates on adding 6 feet or 8 feet of length to the 4 ft side fence at Cutting. This would be a temporary fix to keep people off Cutting and not allow them to hop over the fence.

Chief Nix stated the last option is to use law enforcement to keep people off the fields. He stated it is important for people to get out and exercise as long as they follow the social distancing rules.

He is working with a vendor who can produce signs for the field/recreation locations once the verbiage is approved. The signs will be 18 X 24. Chief Nix stated he would be able to cover the cost of the signs at this time, Dan stated he could also help cover the cost of the signs.

Commissioners reviewed the sign information Dennis sent out earlier in the day. The signs will say STOP with bulleted items for easier reading saying what is closed. The sign will also say that criminal sanctions may apply if rules are not followed. Once the signage is approved Chief will have between 20-30 signs produced within a few days.

Mara asked about using a reverse 911 to get the word out to residents. Chief Nix stated that had been discussed and may still be done. It will not reach the out of town residents who are using the fields. He is hopeful that the steps of using barriers, signage, and increased police presence will be enough to encourage residents and non-residents to follow the restrictions put in place.

Chief Nix thanked everyone for their help and cooperation in working together to help in this difficult time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.