

Virtual Meeting – 6:30pm

June 1, 2020

Commissioners: Bobby Beagan, Mara Huston, Jim Marotta, Ben Carmel, Dick Williamson, Jim Marotta
Dennis Mannone, Dir. Park and Recreation/Pool, Chris Felt, Parks and Ground

Public Comment: None

Director Update – Dennis reported camp regulations finally came out and they are pretty much what he had expected based on his discussions with MRPA and the American Camp Association. He will be able to run camp, but it will be much different than in the past. Dennis is planning on running a 1/2-day camp that will follow the camp guidelines of 10 kids in a group with one camp counselor. The ages are 7 to 11. He will run camps that focus on sports, arts and crafts, stem and science and nature. In house staff will run the camps with the possibility of hiring a few part time summer staff. Swimming is not allowed in the new guidelines. He also stated there will be no extended day coverage due to the new guidelines of keeping groups together. Dennis stated he will be refunding everyone signed up for Preschool Pals, Sudbury Adventure and Sudbury Summer Camp. He is hoping the new camps will bring in enough revenue to cover the salaries paid out of the Recreation Revolving Fund.

Mara asked if those already registered for camp will have preference in signing up for the new camps. Dennis stated the new camps will require a new registration day, June 10th, and there will be no preference. Everyone currently signed up for camp will receive the first emails regarding the new one week, 1/2-day camps.

Jim Marotta asked if the camp regulations are orders or guidelines. Dennis stated they are guidelines that need to be followed so the camps are approved by Board of Health. He added that the Town camp is not licensed, but does follow the guidelines and he works closely with the Board of Health.

Dennis is hopeful the guidelines will be relaxed as the weeks go by. The camps are scheduled to start during phase 3, on July 6. Bobby asked why not start camp earlier, if the kids are out of school. Dennis stated July 6 is when the Town camp usually starts. He is thinking about offering a one-week camp in late June, depending on the registration for the ½ day summer camps. He said there is also still training to do for the camps and that will take place in late June.

Bobby asked about the tennis courts and if there were any issues since re-opening. Dennis stated they were going well, except for those teaching private lessons. Bobby mentioned he heard teams or groups were practicing on the fields at Curtis and Haskell. Dennis stated it is difficult to keep people off the fields and that he is not issuing any permits. He is receiving requests for field use as the fields are scheduled to open in Phase 2.

Dennis reviewed the Revolving accounts with the Commission and stated after refunds for camp the accounts could be in the negative depending on the registration numbers for the new ½ summer camp.

Bobby asked how much revenue is projected to be brought in with the new summer camp. Dennis stated he is hoping to bring in \$50,000 which will cover salaries and expenses for the summer.

Dennis reported the Field Enterprise and Pool Enterprise Funds will also be in the negative. The DPW Director was able to cover the Park and Grounds salary that usually comes out of the Field Enterprise Fund for the April, May and June. Dennis has already reported the estimated loss in the Enterprise Funds to the Town Manager. He stated now that the camp guidelines are clear, he will be able to assess the Revolving Funds and report the expected loss to the Town.

Mara stated she felt the Park and Recreation Commission should be advocating for the Town to cover the losses that Recreation has incurred due to cancelling the camps and the closure of the Atkinson Pool and the Town Fields.

Bobby stated he felt Dennis was already in contact with his management regarding the financial issues as the Commission had already made the statement to the Board of Selectmen. He wasn't sure if there was an upside to having the Commission contact them again.

Dennis stated he has a meeting with the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager to discuss these issues. He said they the Department lost all spring money; may lose all of the summer and he expects the registrations to be smaller in the fall.

Dennis stated he has been in many meetings with other Recreation professionals and COVID-19 has caused many camps and recreation departments to cancel their summer plans.

Jim Marotta stated he believes the financial struggle will be an ongoing problem throughout the next year.

Dennis stated he is hopeful the pool will be able to open in some capacity on June 8. He is currently working with the Town and BoH to review the guidelines. The current plan is to open the Pool from 6:00 am to 1:00pm and use only full-time staff for coverage. Users will request a lane through the department software and only 8 swimmers will be allowed in at a time. Two people will be able to use the dive well at a time. The staff will have to wipe down the ladders and other surfaces in-between each hour before the next users come in to swim.

Ben C. asked about a COVID-19 surcharge. Dennis stated he was not adding that at this time. Anyone who swims will be paying a single day rate, there will be no memberships at this time.

Ben asked what else Park and Recreation could do for the Community to keep visible. Is there a plan to run the Summer Concerts? Dennis stated he is very interested in running the

Community events, but at this time there are no funds to cover expenses. He hopes to bring back the summer movies and summer concerts in the future.

Bobby mentioned the possibility of working with the Senior Center to run some type of Community event.

Fields - Bobby opened discussion on field openings in Phase 2 and possibly voting so another meeting would not have to be called to vote on opening guidelines.

Chris Felt asked if the bathrooms will be open if the fields are open. What are the cleaning guidelines? The bathrooms are currently not open. Discussion on the guidelines requiring daily cleaning of the bathrooms and how that expense will be covered. The bathrooms have to be cleaned every day and must be sanitized weekly.

Mara asked if the bathrooms had to be open if the fields were open. Jim Marotta stated the bathrooms don't have to be open if the fields are open.

Concern was expressed on opening the bathrooms at Haskell and the use of the Haskell playground. Chris Felt offered that the Big Belly garbage cans have been removed. The guidelines for trash are to have open containers. Open containers are more difficult since they attract bees and will overflow often before they are emptied.

Dennis proposed a per hour fee for field permits for the remainder of the Fiscal Year. Bobby agreed that would probably be the best at this time.

Dennis mentioned opening the concession stands are also an issue.

A motion was made for Park and Recreation to strictly follow the state guidelines for Phase 2 of reopening the fields with the exception of opening bathrooms and the Haskell playground.

Motion received a second; vote was as follows- Jim-yes, Mara-yes, Ben-yes, Dick-yes, Bobby-yes

Misc.- Bobby mentioned he has seen a large baseball group, he believes it is the group from Hudson that was kicked off last summer, using Haskell field and questioned how to get them to stop using the field without a permit. Bobby stated it could be the group from Cressy in Hudson, MA.

Dennis said he has no problem kicking them off the field if he sees them.

Mara stated if we know who they are perhaps the owner should be contacted or she suggested a letter from the Town Manager requesting they stop using our fields without a permit.

Master Plan - The plan has not been updated for quite a while. Bobby will put the master plan on the July agenda and will get input from the other Commissioners.

Next meetings are scheduled for July 6th and August 3rd.

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm