

Virtual Meeting – 6:30pm

July 13, 2020

Commissioners: Bobby Beagan, Mara Huston, Ben Carmel, Dick Williamson
Dennis Mannone, Dir. Park and Recreation/Pool, Chris Felt, Parks and Ground, Janie Dretler, Bill Schineller – BOS

Public Comment – None

Bill Schineller asked about private lessons on the tennis courts and the vandalism at Haskell playground discussed in previous meetings. Dennis contacted Longfellow Tennis and requested they tell their instructors that private lessons are not allowed on our courts without a permit. Dennis spoke with Chief Nix about the playground issues. The fence at Haskell playground has been fixed. Chris Felt stated teens are still sitting on the baseball dugout, pulling shingles off and tossing them on to the field. Bobby will add this item to a future agenda.

Mara added Revolution coaches are teaching private lessons on the fields. Dennis stated he has seen them too and contacted youth soccer to let them know that this practice is not allowed without a permit, since they are making money by teaching.

Director Update – reported on Field, Recreation and Pool. Recreation mini camps have 97 registrations. Camp is going well and they are following state guidelines. The majority of revenue for the mini-camps was generated in the prior fiscal year, but registrations are continuing to come in. Recreation staff is starting to plan for fall programs. Dennis has issued field permits to soccer, youth baseball, lacrosse and youth softball. He has received inquiries from other groups. The Atkinson Pool is currently offering swim lessons, dive well and lane rentals and daily lap swim by reservation. Over 100 children are signed up for swim lessons. Dive well rental, private lane rental, swim team rental, and open swim lane rentals have brought in additional revenue. Lane/dive well rentals are available for \$10.00 per hour. One person per lane, two people per dive well. Memberships are not active at this time due to no locker access and limits on the number of people allowed inside.

Ben Carmel asked how FY21 revenues compare to FY20 at this time. Dennis stated it would be difficult to compare due the different circumstances surrounding each Fiscal Year. He is hopeful that the revenue generated will be able to cover salaries at the pool and as much of the expenses as possible. Part time staff is not being used and he is watching expenses closely. He has received calls from other swim teams and dive coaches requesting use of the pool, since other pools in the area are not open at this time.

Bobby also expressed interest in the comparisons of numbers from last year to this year. Dennis stated he will have Dennis K (Finance Director) to run a report with that information.

Mara asked about swim lessons for adults. Dennis said that is something he is interested in, but right now there just isn't enough time. The pool closes at 4:00, but it is something he will mention and follow up on.

Bobby mentioned Jean Nam's request for recreation program numbers from prior years. Bobby contacted Jean to give her some of the history on the department. Dennis stated he will send Jean a PDF with the program information. As far as financials, he will rely on the Town financial numbers from the past.

Mara added that there are questions about why programs are cancelled. This could be due to low enrollment caused by too many similar programs offered. New programs may not attract enough numbers. The existing building and limited space may cause our program offerings to be limited. If the building can't handle the programs, may have to use other facilities which cost the department money.

Dick thanked Mara for her hard work regarding the new Fairbank Community Center.

Trash Pick Up at Fields – Dennis reported that fields are open. Signage has been put up stating how fields can be used with social distancing guidelines. Bathrooms are still closed. Youth groups have asked about opening them. Dennis spoke with Bill Murphy, BoH, and the decision is to keep them closed.

Trash at playgrounds and fields is a problem. CDC guidelines state visitors to parks and fields should expect limited trash cans at fields and users should plan to carry out whatever they bring in. Currently there are no trash cans at the fields. According to the guidelines trash cans are not supposed to have lids. This causes a problem with over flowing, rain filling the trash cans and bees etc. The solar trash cans are no longer in use. Chris explained it was a pilot program that never worked the way they wanted.

Chris Felt stated if we put trash cans back out, we would need the dumpsters, which would be a cost to the town. Ben C. asked if the BoH had an opinion.

Dennis suggested instituting a carry in carry out policy on all fields/playgrounds with proper signage. Mara questioned if the Commission decides on the carry in/carry out policy is that something that should come from the Town.

Bobby stated he saw garbage cans at fields in other Towns. He is concerned by the amount of trash at the fields lately that is not generated by the youth groups. He feels the Town should supply the trash service. Bobby stated he saw trash cans in Yarmouth and Hudson, MA so he is curious how that would work in Sudbury. Chris stated some towns have a dedicated crew and truck that picks up those specific containers. The Town would have to invest in the containers and truck or a company to come pick up the trash. He said it is at least something the Town should investigate. Dennis stated better signage about carry in carry out would help clean up the parks/fields. Dennis questioned if the field permit money should be used to pick up field garbage and bathrooms. Bobby suggested discussing this with the Town Manager.

Mara asked about field money in the Town Manager's budget. Bobby stated there is no money set aside in FY21.

Bobby asked Chris for the status on the second well at Haskell. Communication has been an issue during COVID-19 with the electric company. Access and location appear to be an issue. Last discussion the new well would be located near the existing well and that would be a problem because each well would draw from the same aquifer. Location and power to the location have been a challenge, but it is still under discussion.

Dennis spoke with Dan Nason, DPW Director, who will speak with his consultants to see if they can figure out the best location for the second well and if it can draw off a different aquifer.

Ben asked about previous discussions regarding vacuuming the renovated Cutting Field to keep it clean. Chris stated that had been done, he has entered into a yearly contract to have the cleaning done twice a year. The Park and Grounds budget paid for the services last fiscal year.

Mara stated any expenses for Featherland for nets, etc. should be billed to the CPC account. Bobby asked about the pickleball nets. Chris reported the storage boxes were damaged at Featherland and Feeley. Chris and Dennis will work on a plan to put a box with the net at Featherland and Feeley and residents will have to call the Recreation Department to use the net.

Recreation Perception Issue/BOS Liaison - Park and Recreation discussion of One Sudbury comments by Bill Schineller, BOS and Mara's responding email regarding comments from Mr. Schineller. Mara read the post from Mr. Schineller and read her email responding to Mr. Schineller's comments. She felt Mr. Schineller was not supportive of Park and Recreation and questioned if he should be the representative for Park and Recreation from the Board of Selectmen. Bobby sent copies of the emails to Dan Carty, BOS, stating a discussion would take place at the Park and Recreation Commission meeting requesting a change in representation from the BOS. Bobby asked Bill if he would like to address his comments and Bill stated he did already. Bobby asked Mara to read Bill's responding email to her. Bill cautioned the Commission to not be narrow minded in regard to Sewataro and stated it was a "bad look" for the Commission. Bobby expressed his disappointment with Bill's comments and questioned if he should be the liaison to the Park and Recreation Commission. Bill asked Bobby what he wasn't doing for the Commission, he felt he was representing them properly. After discussion back and forth, Dick Williamson made a motion to request the Board of Selectmen appoint a different liaison to the Park and Recreation Commission. Motion received a second. Motion passed 4-0. Dick -yes, Ben-yes, Mara-yes, Bobby-yes.

Ben felt it was important to address some of the points regarding Sewataro and interaction with the Park and Recreation Commission and residents. Dennis stated he had plans to meet regarding Sewataro property, but the meeting was cancelled due to Covid-19. It is still unclear what access residents will have and what access Park and Recreation will have to the Sewataro property. Dennis will follow-up in the fall since camp is currently running at Sewataro and he is busy with the pool/camp activities at Fairbank.

Fairbank Community Center- Mara stated she has been offering information sessions with residents regarding the new Fairbank Community Center. Mara shared her presentation with the Commission. She stated the new building is needed due to the growth of the senior population in Town, the fact that seniors get moved every summer due to the Recreation camp, the current issues with the building and the roof. She stated the tax impact on the average resident will be \$231.00 per year for every household with the average value of \$746,256. As of March 20, 2020 61% of the households in Sudbury were valued at less than the \$746,256 figure. The new building will give the seniors and recreation programs more dedicated space and more shared space. Mara stated it was important to get public support. The plan is still to put the article for the new building in front of the residents at the fall Town meeting even during this difficult time. Mara stated if the article doesn't pass there is no good solution for the building.

Master Plan - Dick reported that not much was happening, everything is going slowly due to Covid-19. There is a draft of the second master plan for future projects on line. Dick stated he would send it to everyone.

Davis Field – Bobby will touch base with Dan Nason on this topic again. Covid-19 is delaying activity on plans for these areas.

Bobby will add some of the other projects, such as Davis and Broadacre to a future agenda. Mara asked to add Feeley softball improvements on a future agenda. This may be a project for CPC funds.

A pool UV filter for the pool may also be an item for CPC funds as we move forward for the fall requests.

Dennis added he was on an internal phone call regarding the Bruce Freeman Rail trail and parking. They were very hopeful that some of the monies for Broadacres, CPC Funds could be used for parking and recreation facilities at that site. It is still under discussion, but was thought it should be added to a future agenda for more discussion on Ti-Sales, Davis, Broadacre involvement with the Rail Trail and parking.

Dennis will put a link to the meeting on the Recreation website.

Minutes from the last meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for August 10, 2020. Will wait to see when the Town meeting is scheduled to plan the September meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

