

Virtual Meeting 6:31pm

August 15, 2022

Commissioners: Laurie Eliason, Jenn Stone, Bobby Beagan, Ben Carmel

Dennis Mannone, Dir. Park and Recreation/Pool

Meeting Roll Call: Jenn – here, Laurie - here, Bobby - here, Ben – here

**Public Comment:** None

**Comments from the Chair:** Ben acting as chair. Ben stated remote meetings have been extended through March 2023. Mara sent an email to the Commission informing the expected funding for the basketball court at Fairbank will not be received. Fairbank Community Center groundbreaking was held in early August. The crosswalk has not been installed yet. Temporary entrances are under construction, senior center and school entrances can still be used. Voting will occur in the gym on September 6<sup>th</sup>. A picture of the new Fairbank Community Center has been hung on the fence. The pool will be shutdown from August 15<sup>th</sup> through September 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Director Update:** Sudbury Summer ended on Friday. Dennis said there were advantages and disadvantages to being located at Haskell. Walking back and forth from the pool to Haskell and crossing the street was the biggest issue.

Dennis emailed year end financials for the Pool and Field Enterprise Fund both have retained earnings. Dennis pointed out Park and Grounds department was down two staff for most of the year, which reduced the overall Field Enterprise expenses. The pool is still short staffed with part time supervisors and lifeguards. Pool hours have been reduced along with expenses. He expressed concern about revenues during construction.

In the past, the Pool had a Director, two Supervisors and a Head Lifeguard. The Town made some changes over the years and the position of Pool Director was not filled in order to bring back a full time Recreation Director. He said he would like to see a Director or Asst. Director position back in the future. The department may need additional staff in the new building depending on operating hours. The new building entrance will be shared Recreation/Pool, so there will be different front desk requirements. In the past the pool could be closed off from the rest of the building. Ben asked if there was something Dennis needed from the Commission regarding this issue. Dennis said the current Recreation budget contains salary for the Director, Admin and half salaries for program coordinators. He was unsure how the Town would handle the salary for a new position. He is still unsure what the revenue loss will be when the pool is shutdown. Laurie asked if a Town Article would be needed to cover revenue loss. Bobby said it would depend on what fund the Town used to cover the loss and suggested the Commission may want to alert FinCom to the potential loss of revenue, so they are aware that funds may be needed. Dennis expressed concern that FinCom will use retained earnings (\$400,000) to offset the loss in revenue. During Covid, the Town voted to fund \$150,000 to the Pool Enterprise Fund and \$50 to the Field Enterprise Fund to cover the shortfall at that time. Bobby suggested putting together numbers on the potential loss of revenue due to the shutdown. Dennis said he will get those estimates and said no rate increase is planned for the Pool at this time.

Jenn asked if Dennis had alerted renters of construction shutdowns. He has and said the pool is normally shut down in August for a few weeks, he is more concerned about the longer shutdown in May. Dates for the spring shutdown are not known at this time; he is hearing May, June and July. This

also makes it difficult to plan for Sudbury Summer Camp. Dennis said communication regarding construction issues is better with the weekly meetings. He is hopeful the crosswalk will be installed soon. Parking at Haskell may also become an issue once fall soccer begins.

**Capital Priorities:** Ben stated the deadline for CPC requests is Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. He said the Commission discussed the following capital priorities: Basketball courts/lights at Fairbank, Smile Playground at Haskell and Feeley Field renovations, a pavilion at Fairbank, a walking path around Haskell Field, and pool gutters. The Commission asked Dennis to give his opinion on these projects.

*Basketball Courts/Lights/Pavilion:* Dennis would like to see one basketball court hopefully with lights and a fence. He would recommend putting the second court on hold until the new building is completed. He is still unsure if summer camp will stay at Haskell or move back to the new building which will depend on how much room is outside. He would suggest waiting to see how the building is actually used and then determine what will work the best.

Ben gave an update on the pavilion and basketball courts. The current project includes one court, but not lights or a fence. He felt any capital request for the basketball court should include lights and a fence and possibly the second basketball court. He added that if the Commission decides to submit a capital request for the basketball courts the project team already has an estimate for lights and a fence and a second court with lights and fence. Ben did not know the estimated cost. Jenn stated it was hard to set priorities without knowing the costs.

Dennis thought it would be about \$60,000 for the fence and \$150,000 for the lights. He is in favor of a capital request for lights and a fence for the one court. Laurie stated she had expressed concern in the last meeting regarding the pavilion being too far from the building and the need for a fence. She would prioritize the pavilion over the second basketball court and would advocate to work with the architects now to design the best site for a pavilion.

Jenn asked if there was ever a plan or estimated cost for a pavilion, Dennis said he wasn't involved in the planning, but did request a concrete pad for picnic tables. As the cost of the building increased, many items were cut from the project. He agreed with Laurie that a pavilion with picnic tables would be more beneficial at this time than a second basketball court. A second basketball court could be added later.

Ben said he does not have cost estimates for a pavilion, so it would take more time to design and obtain costs. He mentioned there may be an opportunity to work with the Energy and Sustainability commission to investigate alternative energy technologies and funding.

*Feeley/Haskell Playground CPC Articles:* Ben asked if the approved CPC projects are all set or if there is anything the Commission needs to consider. Dennis mentioned the SMILE Playground at Haskell is delayed because the Town doesn't have anyone on staff to write bid specs for the SMILE playground and the DPW Director is encouraging him to use a third-party landscape engineering company which would increase the cost of the overall playground. He said an early cost estimate for the site work was \$14,000. The project is held up because of unknown budget costs and the probability that Sudbury Summer Camp will have to use Haskell playground again. He is working on the numbers to see if that additional \$14,000 can be absorbed anywhere in the current budget. Ben asked if there might be a need to request more funding. Dennis said possibly, but he wasn't sure yet. He will give an update in September.

The Feely CPC Article is in moving along. Warner/Larsen is writing the bid package. He is working with Elaine Jones, Legal and Dan Nason, DPW, and is hopeful the project will go out to bid in the fall. Once a contractor is selected, the safety and dugout work could be done in the November/December timeframe and then the drainage work would be done in the spring. If not work may not start until next July. He is waiting for a cost estimate for Phase 2 from Warner/Larsen, which will incorporate drainage work, irrigation, design costs and labor. He would like to go to CPC this fall for Phase 2 of Feeley field with the cost estimates from Warner Larsen.

Dennis will give the Commission a SMILE Haskell Playground budget and an update on Feeley Phase 1 and estimates on Phase 2. He said he will be on vacation, but will try to get that information for the September meeting.

Bobby asked about the current safety of the Haskell Playground. Dennis said there are cracks in the surface and the spinner on the right side is dug out a little. The DPW foreman will attempt to patch the cracks and the spinner may be removed

*Pool Gutters/Filters:* In 2008, there was discussion of replacing the gutters. They are tiled cement covers with slits that surround the pool, so the water can wash over and drain back through the filter. The cement covers sit on cement shelves within the gutter and over time the shelves have eroded due to the chlorine in the water. Shims are currently used to keep them balanced. He does not know if they leak. He is not sure of the cost, but does think it is a project to be considered for a 30 plus year old pool. Filter work is being done, but he is not aware of the plan. The pool will be drained in the spring so he is concerned about the logistics, timing and the many pool shutdowns. His suggestion is to wait to see how the pool survives the multiple construction shutdowns

Jenn said if it needs to be done, it should be done during a shutdown. Dennis suggested contacting Tom Scarlatta who drafted a document in 2008 on replacing the gutters. Dennis thought it could be delayed for a year or so and it would have to be a capital project. He thought the estimate in the past was about \$36,000. He added the HVAC system is seven years old, that may need to be replaced at some point.

Dennis said Capital Projects are due September 30. It was decided to continue this conversation at the next Commission meeting on September.

*Walking Path at Haskell:* The proposal is a walking path around Haskell on the inside of the fence. Bobby said he didn't think this project would be a higher priority than any of the other projects. He asked Dennis for his comments. Dennis said he is not against the idea and agreed with Bobby it is probably something to think about in the future. He does have a concern that it would impact field playability, because there are requirements that fields have to be a certain distance from walkways and structures. The baseball batting cage and permanent outfield fence impact field layouts already. He suggested asking engineering to take a look at the field and run some numbers to see what the impact would be.

***Feeley Field Pickleball Noise:*** Ben asked if the Commission wanted to do anything regarding the pickleball noise by hanging soundproofing material or moving the court and repainting the courts on another tennis court. Bobby suggested conducting additional research on soundproofing materials and contacting other Towns to see how they are managing pickleball and the noise. The quote Dennis received to move the court and repaint the lines was \$12,890. He will email the sound absorption material he presented in a previous meeting. He thought the long-term plan should

figure out where pickleball will be played in Town. Bobby emailed Dennis' previous email on sound absorption material to the Commissioners.

Laurie asked for the status of the van. Dennis said the Select Board initially gave \$100,000 from the ARPA Funds to purchase a van, but they did have additional questions including accessibility. He is waiting for a return email from the vendor, but said a wheel chair accessible van for one or two people is going to be more expensive. The estimate was \$225,00, it would be a custom van and difficult to find. A hybrid wheel chair van would cost anywhere from \$175,000 to over \$200,000. He will get estimates for a handicapped accessible gas van, hybrid and fully electric van along with the ordering timeframe. Laurie asked if a request should be made for the additional funds. Dennis planned to go back to the Select Board for ARPA funds, if not, he would ask for Town funds.

Bobby asked about the second well at Haskell. Dennis said it sits with DPW at this time and thinks there is \$35,000 still sitting in an article. Soil testing has been completed and the thought is they could spend the \$35,000 and dig a potential well close to Fairbank Road, but there is no guarantee they will get enough water yield from the well. If the well works, they would have to go back to the Town for more funds for electricity to run the well. There is also a real possibility we could spend the \$35,000 and not get any water.

*Ben recapped the action items:* Add lights and fence to the basketball court at the new Fairbank Community Center, cost estimates available; develop requirements for a pavilion, and the possibility of a second basketball court; research if extra funds are needed for the van. A separate line item is for Mara to speak with Tom Scarlatta to determine the actual gutter situation and costs.

Dennis stated he thought the basketball court, lights, fence and pavilion would qualify for CPC funding. Phase 2 for Feeley would come under CPC funding as well. Plans and financials would need to be ready by October for these projects. Capital project submission would be any additional funds needed for the van and the pool gutters.

Ben questioned if the CPC requests should be submitted together or split them into individual submissions. It was thought lights for the basketball court and fencing should be together and the pavilion should be a separate CPC request as would Phase 2 for Feeley field. Bobby and Laurie agreed.

Ben discussed voting on the CPC requests. Dennis suggested working collectively on the requests and CPC language and at a subsequent meeting present and vote on the submissions. The Commission could then endorse the requests and Dennis would have the endorsement of the Commission as he presents to the CPC.

Ben agreed and asked Dennis if he wanted the Commission to reach out to any Committees, such as the Energy Committee. Dennis said he would welcome any additional information or funding sources for the projects. Ben will ask Mara to reach out to Tom Scarlatta in regard to the new pool gutter requirements and cost. Dennis will gather information on the SMILE Playground at Haskell and the status of the van request through the Select Board. He will continue research on the walking path, Feeley soundproofing and the well at Haskell, but those would be further down on the priority list.

Dennis asked if Laurie would like to help with the van research. He will email his information on the van. Bobby offered to help out with the lights and the basketball court. Jen will assist Dennis with

Feeley Phase 2. He will send her information on Phase one and two and they can discuss when he returns from vacation. Ben will assist Dennis with the SMILE playground at Haskell.

**Sudbury Summer Concert and Block Party at Haskell Field:** The event is planned for Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Tricia, Program Coordinator, is speaking with vendors, planning for a 3-4-hour event, with first hour dedicated to entertainment for children. In addition, a 2-hour event for a band is also planned. Information tables may be available, as well as food trucks and potentially a beer truck if approved. Laurie is working with Tricia to see how the Commission can help with the event. The time frame for the event will be 2pm to 5pm or 6pm. Dennis is working with youth soccer on their schedule for that day. He is checking with the School Superintendent to see if two tents can remain at Haskell for the event. Jenn asked about offering community service hours for high school volunteers. Dennis said volunteers for face painting would be helpful to keep the children engaged. Ben asked about advertising the event. Dennis said he plans to send out a flyer by the end of the week to alert residents to save the date. Another flyer will be sent once more information is available. Laurie stated she would keep the Commissioners aware of the plans for the event and what support is needed.

Review and Approve Minutes: Motion to approve the July 11<sup>th</sup> Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Seconded. Vote: Bobby – yes, Laurie – yes, Ben – yes, Jenn – yes.

Next meetings are scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Bobby seconded. Jen – yes, Laurie – yes, Bobby – yes, Ben -yes.

Meeting adjourned 8:25pm.