

Virtual Meeting 6:32pm

July 11, 2022

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

Meeting Roll Call: Jenn - here, Bobby (joined meeting at 6:45pm), Laurie - here, Ben – here, Mara - here

Public Comment: None

Chairperson Comment: Mara gave an update on the Fairbank Building and that Sandra Duran, the new Combined Facilities Director, would be speaking later in the meeting. Sandra has started what she is brief weekly meetings to keep the staff in the building up to date on the project. The August shut down at the pool is unchanged at this time. Cross walk signal is not in place yet. A groundbreaking ceremony is planned, but no date has been set. Ben asked if there would be any formal sign or information posted at the work site of the future building, Mara said it would be a good question for Sandra, later in the meeting.

Mara stated the Open Meeting Law that allows for virtual meetings is set to expire on the 15th of July, but is expected to be extended. Mara discussed receiving an email from the Select Board regarding use of chat functions in the meetings looking for feedback from the chairperson

Pickleball Discussion: Kevin Westerberg sent information/pictures on pickleball courts to the Park and Recreation Commission. He contacted a vendor who said it would cost \$495 to paint courts at Feeley. He suggested moving the current pickleball court to the other end court near the softball field and painting over the outside lines on the existing pickleball court. He estimated this cost between \$500-\$700. The interior pickleball court lines would not be repainted until the tennis courts were repainted in the future. This estimate would be much less than the \$13,000 to relocate the pickleball court estimated in previous meetings by the Recreation Director. Commissioners said they could not comment on the estimate since estimate for work would have to go through the Town procurement process which includes prevailing wages and a bidding process. It was thought Dennis should review the cost estimate to see how it would be impacted going through the Town procurement process. Dennis was unable to attend the meeting tonight.

Jenn stated her concern is moving the pickleball court may just move the noise issue to the other side, she thought other opportunities should be explored as well. Jenn said she was not in favor of spending money to then have a noise issue on the other side.

Mara informed the Commission that Craig Blake, a Sudbury pickleball player, offered to get information on court usage and sound impact in various locations. Diane Williamson presented Craig's data, since he was not able to attend the meeting.

Dianne Williamson, 52 Country Village Lane, presented data gathered from May 11 through July 7, 2022 from random hours between 8am and 8pm. Tennis courts were used about 52 percent of the time and pickleball 21 percent of the time. Courts were empty about 34 percent of the time and activity increased for both sports on the weekend.

The objective of the sound study was to document the noise levels associated with different pickleball court locations. Diane presented data on various scenarios. Maximum sound levels were measured

during 2-minute intervals at five locations using a smartphone NIOSH Sound Level Meter. Data was taken after moving pickleball from court 1 (closest to Raymond Road) and court 6 court closest to Maple Road. The study showed the sound on court 6 increased when played. The Condo association did complain about the noise from Girls Softball Games and use of the Backboard on Court 5 by tennis players.

Ben was interested in data on sound when pickleball was played on court 2,3,4, 5. Mara stated placing pickleball on the inside courts could present a safety issue due to spraying balls (tennis and pickleball) and additional pickleball players. He was looking for the best location, knowing it would not be great for everyone. Bobby stated additional pickleball players should not be on the courts and would have to wait outside the fence for the next game.

Mara reviewed the Town bylaws for noise and it is basically about construction noise and lawnmower/leaf blower noise, etc. but nothing about recreation noise. She also spoke with the Chief of Police and he said no criminal or civil violation occurring when playing pickleball during daytime hours. Mara stated she was covering all bases and found out there is nothing in the bylaws regarding noise ordinances that would restrict recreation.

Capital Priorities/New Combined Facilities Director Introduction – Mara introduced Sandra Duran, the new Combined Facilities Director. Mara invited her to attend the meeting to participate in the discussion on capital priorities. Mara asked Sandra if there would be any kind of sign/banner on the construction fence showing the new Fairbank Community Center, but Sandra did not know of any. Sandra stated fencing is expected to be done by Wednesday and some large trees will be removed on Thursday and Friday. She said the plan is for a cross walk to be put in soon. In the meantime, large highway signs are posted at the crosswalks along with yellow signs actually in the crosswalk. This is to slow down traffic for all the campers and people parking in the Haskell parking lot. Construction trailers are expected to arrive soon. Ben asked about the communication path between the department and construction plan. Sandra stated she has started weekly meetings called “huddles” for the department staff to keep them informed of construction plans for the week. She added the Town website is also an area that will keep everyone informed. Mara stated she communicates with Jen Pincus before Commission meetings.

Mara, said she received a call from Carmine Gentile, Representative on the House Ways and Means Committee, regarding a proposed economic development bill. He asked about Recreation’s needs. She reviewed what the Commission had discussed in the past for ARPA funds and suggested funds for a Park and Rec Bus, a Pavilions at the new Fairbank Building, a second basketball court and lights on both courts.

Mara shared a screen shot of Capital Priority List she put together from past Commission discussions, which included replace pool gutters, walkway around Haskell Field, refurbish basketball court at Curtis, complete basketball courts at Fairbank, Feeley Pickleball court adjustments, a pavilion at Fairbank, bus for transporting students from schools to Fairbank Community Center for programming, and other any other ideas. She opened discussion with a plan to come up with a priority list. The pool gutters have been discussed since 2008 and may be able to be fixed during the annual pool shutdown. Jen asked how much the gutters would cost. Mara said in 2008 it was about \$36,000. If this is an agreed upon priority the Commission could ask Sandra to provide more information in the September meeting. Mara estimated the costs would be under \$100,000. She said the Council on Aging had expressed interest in creating a path around Haskell and this could be a great opportunity to work together on a project. She

said Dennis Mannone had expressed some concern the walking path would interfere with field space. Work on the Curtis courts was suggested since the courts at Haskell have been removed due to the construction. Mara reached out to Bill O'Rourke, Assistant DPW Director, and was told the tennis courts at Feeley would likely be redone in 4 to 8 years. The Pavilion at Fairbank is also an idea along with the bus, but Mara stated the bus may already be approved for ARPA funds.

Laurie thought it would be good to confirm if the bus is approved for ARPA funds. She discussed the possible Pavilion and where it would be located. Mara mentioned a pavilion was discussed early in the project, but was cut due to funding. She said a Pavilion could be added on the far side of the building next to new basketball court.

Commission discussed the proposed walkway around Haskell Field and if it would negatively impact the current field layout.

Jenn stated she is not interested in taking on new projects that will take more to manage and would rather work to complete existing projects.

Mara said she created the capital priority sheet so the Commissioners could rate the various projects in order of their priority. She stated she felt replacing the pool gutters should be in the Town Managers capital budget, similar to the pool filtration system.

Laurie informed the Commission that a committee has been formed at Curtis to discuss outdoor space and they may already be planning to renovate the Curtis basketball court. Laurie asked about a pavilion at the new Fairbank Community Center. She thought it should be a priority and would be an important element for summer camp. Mara stated a pavilion was discussed early in the discussions for the new building, but it was cut due to budget constraints. It was thought it could be added later. The location for a pavilion could be near the new basketball court.

Mara stated she was not looking for decisions at this time, just conversation and to understand the priorities for projects. Jenn said she found it difficult to assign priorities because no dollar figures were associated with projects. Mara said she wanted to make sure they didn't miss the funding cycle which will begin in the fall.

Jenn asked for some sound proofing material for Feeley tennis courts. Mara said that expense would be included in the Feeley renovations and added in the past the cost for the sound proofing material was estimated at \$18,000.00 and it was unclear how well it would work for sound containment. Jenn said she would like to revisit the topic and get more information.

Mara asked Sandra her opinion on the pool gutters. Sandra said she would need to do more research to understand the issue. She did comment on her concern regarding the new filtration system because having chlorine next to the boilers is really corrosive, and they should really not be in the same room. Mara suggested Sandra speak with Tom Scarlata, who is on the architect team and a pool specialist who is familiar with the current filtration room. Mara asked if Sandra would be able to present information on the pool gutters by the September meeting. Mara stated that the new filtration system is scheduled for the big pool shut down along with the other scheduled pool repairs included in the new facility. She said any money approved for the pool gutters would not be available until after July 1 of 2023. She said Tom said if the gutter funding is approved it could be done during a traditional pool shutdown in August.

Mara stated the funding would be requested from the Town Manager's capital budget. Jenn asked if a new estimated had been requested on the pool gutters or if we were still using the old information. Sandra will reach out to Tom on the gutters and new pool filtration system and have the updated information ready for the September meeting.

Bobby suggested getting Dennis' input on the department priorities and said he didn't feel comfortable moving forward without his input.

Commission discussed the potential need for an August meeting. It was decided to reach out to Dennis to see if he would be able to attend a meeting during the last weeks of August.

Laurie offered to follow up and see if the Curtis Committee has plans to work on the basketball courts at Curtis. Bobby expressed his thought the basketball court needed more work than just painting new lines. Jenn agreed and said she would take a look at the courts to confirm.

Laurie said she is in favor of a pavilion and the pool gutters, but would like to hear Dennis' perspective on the priorities. Bobby said he will wait to define priority levels, but did think lights at the basketball court should fall into a high priority. Ben agreed the basketball lights would be a high priority. The Commission discussed sending Dennis the list of priorities and ask for his feedback in order to move forward.

Roles and Responsibilities Continued Discussion: Mara suggested discussing one topic in the Commission Charter perhaps related to the topics discussed tonight. Ben gave a quick update on the status of the charter. He and Bobby had a meeting with the Town Manager and Asst. Town Manager a few weeks ago, Dennis was unable to attend. Ben mentioned there were about 4 major sticking points in the draft of the charter between the Commission and the Town staff. He said the Town had issues with the Commissions involvement in Town budgets and finances.

He said the Commission could continue with bidirectional good faith discussions with the Town and Department. The Commission could also advocate for additional funding for the department if so desire and any fundraising or grants acceptance would have to go through the normal acceptances of funds through the Select Board. Any positive things the Commission does, cannot have a negative impact on the staff or departmental funding.

Ben said discussion with Town staff was very positive and he and Bobby will edit the charter based on comments received through various discussions. It was suggested to review the Commission's Charter with the Select Board and Town Counsel to get their feedback to see if there were any issues or potential conflicts.

Mara asked what the next steps were in the process. Ben said he and Bobby need to meet with Dennis and then bring the Commission Charter back to a public forum

Funding Impact on Park and Rec Department Due to Community Center Project: Commission discussed the potential impact on the Atkinson Pool/Park and Recreation Department due to the Community Building construction. Mara stated the August shutdown which is normally two weeks will be three to four weeks this summer due to construction, so there will be a small impact. The bigger issue is the long shutdown next spring which is estimated to be several months.

Mara suggested the Town should supplement the Pool Enterprise Fund with an appropriate sum of money. She suggested the need to get that loss of revenue into the funding cycle which starts in September and October. She stated it was not clear if the Recreation Programs will be affected by the construction.

Jenn asked about the funding and Mara stated it would be up to Dennis to figure out the financial impact on the Department and then the Commission would get involved and advocate for the funding.

Sudbury Summer Concert/Block Party: The Sudbury summer concert and block party at Haskell Field is scheduled for September 17 with a rain date of September 24. Mara stated the Commission is not planning the event, but is supporting the Recreation Department in running the event. The grant money has been received and is on the Select Board calendar for approval. The plan is for a Saturday afternoon/early evening with activities planned for adults and children. Food trucks are planned along with potentially a beer truck if a day liquor license is approved. Bobby asked about the potential of adding tables for people to rent during the event. He thought vendors could pay a booth fee if the idea isn't too complicated. This might be a way to raise some funds for concerts or another block party next year.

Mara stated the grant was specifically written as a Town oriented event, not Community, so she thought tables for the Council on Aging, the Fairbank Project, the Library etc. would be okay. She did not think there was anything in the grant request about using the money to help raise funds for the department. She was not sure that would be appropriate and if it could be changed at this time.

Bobby asked if the Program Coordinators could give the Commission an outline of what is planned for the event so they could review it and make recommendations or comments on the event.

The Commission decided to hold a meeting tentatively on August 15th to discuss/review the capital priorities and Community event. Mara will reach out to Dennis to get his feedback on the capital priorities for Recreation.

Laurie offered to reach out and contact Trisha to help with the Community Event. Jenn said she would also be glad to work with Laurie.

Jenn was looking for an update on summer camp. Mara put that on the September agenda since Dennis was not able to be at the meeting. Jenn may email Dennis to check on the summer camp numbers.

Bobby had to leave the meeting at 8:45pm

Commission Minutes: Will be approved at the next meeting.

August 15 is the target date for the next meeting. The future meeting dates are September 12th, October 3rd, and November 7th. Mara will reach out to Dennis and will copy the Commission on her email to Dennis regarding the capital request priorities. Mara and Ben will schedule a meeting with Dennis to discuss capital project priorities and roles and responsibilities in the charter.

Motion to adjourn. Jenn Seconded. Ben – yes, Jenn – yes, Laurie – yes, Mara – yes