

Virtual Meeting 6:35pm

October 3, 2022

Commissioners: Mara Huston, Laurie Eliason, Jenn Stone, Bobby Beagan, Ben Carmel (arrived at 6:40pm)

Dennis Mannone, Dir. Park and Recreation/Pool

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

**Public Comment:** Liesje Quinto, Commission on Disability, spoke on upcoming events. First event is on October 13<sup>th</sup> and will be held via zoom. The second is on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Goodnow Library from 1:30pm to 4:00pm. She said information can be found on Facebook, the Library website and people can email the Council on Disability for information.

**Chair Comments:** Mara stated contractors were experiencing supply chain issues which may impact schedules for construction of the new Fairbank building. Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Community meeting took place. The goal was to discuss ground rules for operation and signage for the Trail throughout the communities.

**Director Update:** Dennis did not receive the monthly financial numbers from the Finance Director. Pool Enterprise and Field Enterprise Funds are running a deficit because annual benefits are taken out at the beginning of the Fiscal Year. He is concerned about a leak in the dive well because water is being lost daily; he has alerted the Town Manager and Facilities Director. Dennis said there was a leak in the pool before construction began, but he is concerned it is getting worse with the construction. He said Tom Scarlata, the pool expert, tested the well in September and results showed dye migrating to specific areas in the well. He measured the water and found the dive well is losing water every day. Mara asked Dennis to keep the Commission informed so they can advocate for whatever is needed.

Mara asked if Dennis was concerned about the deficits in the Enterprise Funds. Dennis is concerned about the pool due to future construction issues and planned shutdowns. He is not as concerned about the Field, but this is the first time in a few years the Parks and Grounds Department staff has been full. In addition, the well at Haskell is having issues, which may require some type of repair and expense.

Mara asked if Dennis knew the financial impact due to the planned shutdown for the pool. Mara said the Commission will advocate if necessary, but would need to know the expected financial impact. Jenn asked for clarification on the shutdown dates, since it could impact summer camp. Mara offered to reach out to her contacts regarding the shutdown dates.

Bobby asked about the well issue at Haskell. Dennis said it isn't working at full capacity, is turned off and a service call has been placed. Laurie asked about the request for an adaptive/inclusive soccer program on the turf field. Dennis said the activity did take place and it was run through Sudbury Soccer.

**Application for a Bench at Grinnell Park:** Joy DiMaggio, 32 Old Framingham Road, and Marcia Higgins, 74 New Bridge Road, Sudbury Thursday Garden Club, presented a bench the garden club is donating to Grinnell Park and requested the Park and Recreation Commission's approval. Dennis wasn't sure the Park and Recreation Commission had jurisdiction over Grinnell. He doesn't permit it for use. Bobby found data online and confirmed it was a Park and Recreation property.

The Garden Club will purchase the bench and donate it to the Town. It will be installed by the vendor. Joy has been working with Tom Russo, Parks and Grounds, to determine a location. It will be a flat bench, no back, and 4 feet long. The Garden Club name will be engraved on the front of the bench. Joy shared a photo of the proposed bench. The bench will follow ADA guidelines. Ben asked if there would be any anticipated maintenance costs. Joy did not expect any. Mara suggested Joy continue to work with the Parks and Grounds staff on placement of the bench.

Ben recalled a signage issue on a project for Heritage and asked if the signage on the bench needed to be approved. It was thought that the name on the bench would not have to get approval.

Bobby made a motion that the Park and Recreation Commission accept the Thursday Garden Club's offer of a granite bench to be placed at Grinnell Park and that they work with the Park and Grounds Staff to have it installed in the proper location. Jenn seconded the motion. Vote: Bobby - yes, Jenn – yes, Laurie – yes, Ben – yes, Mara – yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**CPC Request Approvals:** Mara attended the Permanent Building Committee (PBC) meeting and learned the Facilities Director will be submitting a CPC request for a fence and lights at the new Fairbank Community Center basketball court. If approved, the project will be managed by the PBC as part of the overall building project. The Park and Recreation Commission has voted to support this CPC request.

Dennis presented updated financials on the Feeley Phase 2 CPC request. The CPC request for Feeley Phase 2 will be \$899,668. Phase 2. Dennis described the slit drain system with sand and the other work that would be completed in Phase 2. He said Feeley Phase 1, which was approved last year, will take care of upper Feeley field and the overall design funds. He presented documents showing the work that would be done in Phase 2 and explained how the proposed drainage system will work. The proposed drainage system will have an irrigation system installed.

Ben asked if Dennis knew the current numbers for girls' softball. He did not, but said he knew their numbers were increasing. Jenn said it was a fantastic program, but did not know the exact numbers but felt the proposed improvements were much needed. Mara added that women's softball also uses the fields. Ben questioned the cost for the two phases at Feeley. Mara said the first phase was about \$400,000 and the second phase was always expected to be significantly larger because of the drainage/irrigation issues. She added that girls' softball had pledged \$10,000 to the project. Dennis said the funds have not been received yet. Mara asked Jenn to reach out to girls' softball for the status on the promised funds.

Ben asked if there was another location in Town to locate the softball fields, such as Broadacres, that would not be as expensive to renovate. He is supportive of the program, but concerned about the high cost to rehab the field and make it playable. Dennis said many groups are looking at Broadacres for field use. He agreed it was quite a bit of money, but CPC funds can be requested for this type of work and thought it was a good use of CPC funds and if approved, the work would be done faster than waiting to see how Broadacres will be developed.

Bobby's concern was the potential impact on other CPC Recreation requests due to the dollar amount. Mara stated CPC will ask if there are other funding sources to help with this project. She questioned if there might be grants available for the project. Jenn said she will do some research and reach out to Girls' Softball to discuss their numbers.

Mara asked if the Commission wanted to take a position or make a motion to support the CPC Feeley 2 submission. After additional discussion, Mara asked again if anyone wanted to make a motion or wait on the motion. No motion was made.

**Fall Fest Recap:** Mara thanked the Sudbury Foundation for their generous support and the Park and Recreation Staff for coordinating the event. Laurie wrote up a full report to submit to the Sudbury Foundation. The goal of the event was to strengthen social and civic engagement in the community. Laurie gave an overview of the event, activities, entertainment, booths and response from the community. Bobby asked if the grant covered the event expenses. Laurie said it did with some funds left over. Mara has asked the Sudbury Foundation for guidance on how excess funds should be handled. Laurie met with the Recreation Staff after the event to review what went well and what changes they may want to make if they run another event.

Bobby suggested the idea of the Commission raising funds themselves for this type of Community event; he thought that was an idea worth exploring. Mara commented that idea would fall into the roles and responsibilities of the Commission which will be discussed later in the meeting. Laurie agreed and would like to see, if possible, funds in the budget dedicated for these type of community events.

**Community Programming Needs:** Discussion on the request for the Park and Recreation van and afterschool programming needs. Mara stated Dennis received quotes for a gas-powered van for about \$116,000, a hybrid van for about \$165,000 and an electric van which would be about \$265,000. All would be 15 passenger vans, wheelchair accessible with some form of lift. The van would be used by the Park and Recreation staff to transport children from the schools to Recreation programs. The Select Board has already allocated a \$100,000 to purchase a van, but more funds will be needed. Mara said the Select Board has additional ARPA funds available.

Mara shared her research on the comparisons between gas and hybrid. Dennis stated he is scheduled to discuss the van at the October 11<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting. He will present the three options. Mara asked if the Commission should write a letter to the Select Board supporting the purchase of the van for Park and Recreation.

Jenn expressed concern that a 15-person van could really help with after school care issues, especially one school one day a week. She felt it was a great deal of money to spend to meet a very small percentage of needs and was having trouble supporting the request. Laurie agreed and said it would not fix the current issue, but would be a start and help some families and said the van could also be used for other programs and Recreation field trips. Jenn said her concern was it may become a very expensive vehicle, including maintenance, insurance for field trips that can only take 13 to 15 kids.

Dennis said the bus would be used for additional programming, not necessarily an after-school care program in the beginning. He agreed the bus will not solve after-school care issues, but it is a start. He plans to run a pilot program. He will also have to wait to see how the new building will be used once it is open.

After discussion Mara made a motion to have the Park and Recreation Commission write a letter to the Select Board supporting the Park and Recreation Directors request for additional AARP funding to purchase a gas or hybrid van/bus to support programming and the needs of the community. Motion

received a second. Vote: Laurie -yes, Ben – yes, Bobby – yes, Jenn – no, Mara – yes Vote passed 4-1 in favor.

Mara will attend the October 11<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting. Laurie may also attend the meeting. The information Mara and Dennis put together on the van will be sent to the Select Board to review. Dennis mentioned that Mara had been working the Energy Commission on possible funding. She wasn't sure funding would be available for a non-electric vehicle

**Community Programming Needs: After School Care** – Laurie agreed with Dennis plan to start with a pilot program for after school care, but she also wanted to discuss the long-term ideas on how the new Community Center will be used and the addition of inclusive and adaptive programming. She discussed the idea of requesting funding for a consultant to come and design a program plan for the new facility. She thought it was important to start thinking in advance and plan accordingly in terms of budgets.

Dennis stated the Town will have to decide if the new Community Center will be a vehicle for after school programming and how that would be staffed and funded. This could also impact regular Recreation programming. Once in the new building, the Town will have to decide the hours of operation and how the facility will be managed.

Jenn said she thought Park and Recreation would want to drive the conversation on how the building will operate. Dennis said if the Town wants Recreation to run an after-school program based on the current staff, that is all Recreation would be doing all year and more staff would be needed.

Jenn thought both programming and after school care could be done in the new facility and mentioned the possibility of bringing in a consultant or outsourcing the aftercare program in the new facility. Laurie clarified that she was not thinking of a replica of the SED program, but offering different Recreation activities that would involve transportation to the Community Center. Jenn wanted to make sure the new building was being fully utilized when open and residents will be excited about the programs being offered to the community.

Mara asked Dennis for his thoughts. Dennis appreciated the Commission planning for the future use of the new facility, but said he is currently concerned with the leak in the dive well, staffing and loss of revenue due to the construction of the new building.

He is concerned with staffing requirements of the new building due to the new design and shared entrance for the pool and recreation and no way to separate the pool as in the old building.

**Roles and Responsibilities:** Mara stated the two questions from the last meeting was to research if the Park and Recreation Commission has the authority to submit a CPC request and continued discussion on if the Park and Recreation Commission should have funds for community events.

Ben said according to Cheryl Klein, a CPC representative, and Ryan Ott, the Community Preservation Coordinator for the Town, there isn't any language that prohibits anyone from submitting a CPC application. Ben reference an email from the previous Town Manager, where fees collected would be for the directed use under the Park and Recreation Commission authority. He said the Commission cannot enter into contracts so the Director of Recreation would also be involved coordinating events. Mara questioned if that was enough information for the Park and Recreation Commission to get a

Revolving Fund for the purpose of Community activities. Ben and Bobby will contact Dennis K, Finance Director, regarding this topic and bring back information back to the Commission.

Ben said the outstanding piece before approving the Commissions roles and responsibilities charter is financials and that will require additional discussion. This may be delayed during the search for a new Town Manager.

**Review Meeting Minutes:** Moved to the next meeting.

**Next meetings:** November 7<sup>th</sup>, December 12<sup>th</sup>, and January 9<sup>th</sup>

**Motion to adjourn the meeting:** Seconded. Vote Ben – yes, Bobby – yes, Laurie – yes, Jenn – yes, Mara – yes.