

Virtual Meeting 6:35pm

December 12, 2022

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

Director, Dennis Mannone, Director Park and Recreation

Public Comment: None

Comments from Chairperson: Mara reported in January divers will be used to investigate the leak in the dive well. She said the Fairbank Community Center building is going well and foundation slabs are being poured this week. They are about a month behind schedule. Meetings will be held with the user groups regarding furniture, fixtures and equipment. Crosswalk signal will hopefully be installed soon. Mara confirmed Governor Baker signed the Economic Development bill that will give the Town of Sudbury \$100,000 for the outdoor basketball courts at the Fairbank Community Center. The Permanent Building Committee (PBC) has allocated funds for architects to do a final design of the basketball lights, the fencing has already been completed. Mara has reached out to the Energy Committee to let them know what is happening and to see if there is any support for funding. Jenn asked if the CPC request for lights and fencing would be reduced due to the \$100,000. She said it would be shown as additional funding on the CPC request.

Mara attended the First Parish Mapping Event in early December. The meeting was to understand how their facility and grounds could be best utilized by the Community for a variety of purposes.

The Park and Commission's annual report is due at the end of January. Mara will send a copy of last years report for comments. She will produce a draft for the January meeting.

Mara reached out to the Energy Committee Chair regarding the latest information on the bus/van and new timeframe. She said we should hear about the grant shortly. If funds are received they will be used to make the van a hybrid.

Jenn asked who was paying for the dive well leak exploration. Mara thought the funds were coming from the building project. Mara and Dennis did not know all the details.

Director Update: Dennis sent out Pool and Field expense/revenue financials. He updated the SelectBoard on the changes to the van/bus and received approval to order a gas vehicle, which will be converted to a hybrid at a later date. Dennis said the estimated delivery on the van is 6 months to a year. He would not start planning anything until the van was delivered. No payment will be made until the van is ready to be delivered. He will stay in contact with the vendor and alert if delivery status changes.

Dennis attended the CPC meeting to discuss the Feeley Phase 2 project. He brought a representative from Warner Larson with him to answer specific questions. The project should go out to bid by the end of December/middle of January with work starting sometime in spring of 2023. Dennis said there may be some disruption during softball season, but they will do their best to mitigate it. Mara will keep this project on future agendas and asked Dennis if he received any of the funds pledged by the girls' softball organization. He had not, but heard the funds have been raised. Jenn will follow up with Kate Trainor.

Bobby asked Dennis for an update on pool memberships. Dennis said memberships have come back after the month long shut down in Aug/Sept. He is concerned memberships will have to be cancelled again in the spring during the next construction pool shutdown. He said people are getting frustrated with the shut downs and may not return. Renters will have to find a new home while the pool is shut

down and some of them may not return. Commissioners questioned if there were non-resident/resident rates for the pool. Dennis said no, tax dollars do not cover the pool and there are more non-residents using the pool than residents. Bobby was in favor of non-resident/resident fees. Dennis estimated the pool may be short \$50,000 at the end of the fiscal year due to construction shutdowns throughout the year. He added he will have to increase the field permits at some point to keep pace with increased costs and inflation.

CPC Update/Votes: Mara sent an email to Commissioners on CPC projects to be discussed and possible votes. The first is the Accessible Pathways Project submitted by the Director of Facilities and discussed at the last meeting. Mara said after discussion at the last meeting the Facilities Director decided to withdraw pathways for Ti-Sales and Davis fields from the request since they will be part of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Bobby expressed concern that the decision to remove the two fields from the request was not made by the full Commission. Dennis would like to see Ti-Sales and Broadacres kept in the CPC request because there is no clear understanding what is included in the rail trail project. Bobby wanted it to be clear the Commission did not vote on removing the two fields from the CPC request. Jenn did not recall voting to remove of the two fields. Mara said it is a discussion for tonight and a vote can be taken on whether to support the project or not. After discussion on the CPC Accessible Pathways submission a vote was taken to support the project.

Bobby made a motion that the Park and Recreation Commission support the Accessible Pathways project as presented to the Commission by the Director of Facilities at the November 2022 meeting. Seconded by Laurie. Vote: Bobby – yes, Laurie – yes, Jen – yes, Mara – yes. Mara will email this information to CPC. Bobby asked that Mara clarify the Park and Recreation Commission did not suggest the Facilities Director remove two of the fields.

The next CPC submission for discussion was Feeley Phase 2 which is currently at \$900,000. Dennis presented the project at the public hearing last week. Dennis said he is in favor of a traditional irrigation plan, but if it is deemed too expensive he proposed an alternative plan that would include a simple hose and reel with the irrigation system sitting on top of the grass. The system would be rotated around the field for proper watering. It is labor intensive, but reduces the total cost of the Feeley Phase 2 CPC submission. The cost for the system is estimated at \$30,000. Jenn expressed concern about the system being labor intensive. The savings would be about \$170,000.

Mara suggested to the Commission using some of the remaining funds from the Meadow Walk Fund. She stated \$500,000 was given to the Town for Park and Recreation for field use as part of a legal agreement for the Meadow Walk. \$250,000 was used for Cutting field, \$25,000 was used in the Feeley Field Phase 1. She said the Commission could decide to use the remaining funds or a portion and leave some for the Broadacres project.

Laurie asked if they had to decide tonight and Bobby asked if a vote was on the agenda. Mara said she didn't put vote on Meadowwalk funds, but it is part of the CPC update and vote so she thought it would be covered. Bobby expressed still wanted to develop Davis Field and that was the priority for the funds in previous meetings. Jenn said she thought some of the funds should be used at Feeley.

Laurie questioned if \$50,000 would even make a dent in the request and Mara suggested using \$100,000. She said it was important to offer funds along with requesting CPC funds and that this was also an equity issue. Bobby took issue with the statement that it was an equity issue, he said all fields are used by Sudbury youth. Mara commented on work being done at Featherland. Dennis said it was being done with private funding, he said it was not a major project.

Mara moved the discussion forward and said the Commission has two decisions to make tonight. One is an opportunity to allocate some Meadowwalk Funds towards the Feeley Phase 2 project and the second is for the Commission to take a position on the Feeley Phase 2 project. It was decided to leave

the irrigation in the project request. Mara stated that if necessary, she will advocate to use reserve funds for the project.

Laurie made a motion to support the Feeley Phase 2 as presented by Dennis at the CPC public hearing for approximately \$900,000. Seconded by Jenn. Bobby clarified that if irrigation was removed from the plan, it would not be able to be added back in once construction was completed. Mara said she will also make sure this is known in any future conversations. Vote: Laurie -yes, Jenn- yes, Bobby-yes, Mara -yes. Vote in favor- 4-0.

Mara made a motion to allocate \$100,000 of the Meadow Walk funds towards the Feeley Phase 2 CPC project. Jenn seconded the motion.

Dennis offered the Commission may want to state in the motion that the \$100,000 can only be used for the irrigation costs in the project.

Vote on motion. Mara – no, Jenn -no, Laurie – no, Bobby – no. Motion did not pass.

Mara made a second motion made to support the Feeley Phase 2 project as presented by Dennis at the CPC public hearing for approximately \$900,000 and that \$100,000 from the Meadow Walk funds will be allocated for the irrigation part of the project. If the project is not approved by the CPC, the Meadowwalk funds will revert back to the fund. Jenn seconded the motion

Vote Mara-yes, Jenn -yes, Laurie -yes, Bobby -yes. Vote passed 4-0 in favor.

Janie Dretler, Select Board, commented on the use of the mitigation funds from Meadow Walk. She suggested the Commission should contact the interim Town Manager to ask what the process is to release the funds. She thought the SelectBoard may have to take a vote on releasing the funds.

Mara discussed another CPC project which has been proposed by the Hopbrook Watershed Association for funds for testing and evaluating 3 ponds, including the Sterns Mill Pond, to clean them and make them useable for recreation purposes. Mara mentioned the piece of property the Commission is responsible for that abuts the Sterns Mill Pond that has been discussed in previous meetings as a possible site for boat launch. She asked if the Commission wanted to send anything to the CPC in reference to this submission.

After discussion Bobby made a motion that the Park and Recreation Commission send a letter to the CPC that expresses the Commission's support for the Hopbrook Association's endeavors related to increasing recreation at the Sterns Mill Pond. Seconded by Laurie. Vote: Bobby-yes, Laurie-yes, Jenn-yes, Mara – yes. Vote passed 4-0 in favor. Bobby will write the letter to the CPC.

Storage Shed at Cutting – Mara showed pictures of storage sheds at fields in Town. Steve O'Keefe, Sudbury Youth Soccer, discussed the Top Soccer Program, a sports program that adapts soccer for children and adults with intellectual, emotional and physical disabilities, and the need to store the equipment for the program and the players. Sudbury Youth Soccer program is requesting to put a permanent storage shed at Cutting Field. Sudbury Youth Soccer will pay for the shed and maintain the shed and assume the final design and location would be reviewed and approved they the Town of Sudbury. It was stated that Dennis and the Parks and Grounds staff should determine the best location for the shed.

Bobby made a motion to support Sudbury Youth Soccer's request to put a storage shed at the Cutting Field site under the guidance of the Park and Recreation Director and the Foreman of the Parks and Grounds staff. Jenn seconded the motion. Vote: Bobby-yes, Jenn-yes, Laurie-yes, Mara-yes. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Mara suggested replacing the storage trailer at Haskell at some point. Bobby suggested having the trailer painted and using it as an art project for the LSRHS or Curtis Middle School to make it look better and less of an eyesore. Steve said Sudbury Youth Soccer does not own the trailer, but will check to see if it could be painted gray to make it look better.

Haskell Path Update: Bobby will be meeting with the Parks and Grounds Foreman on Wednesday to walk Haskell. He requested engineering plans to see how the fields have been laid out in the past years. He shared a few of the field layouts. He didn't know if fields will be lost due to the extended Haskell walking path or if the irrigation system will be impacted. He would like to see a safe walking path especially with the new Community Center across the street. Mara will keep this topic on the agenda.

Rail Trail Advisory Task Force: Laurie gave an update on the BFRT. Contract was awarded in late September for the line intersecting at CSS. Preliminary work will start this winter with completion expected in two years. Groundbreaking ceremony date has not been confirmed. Meetings have been held to discuss uniform signage and a core set of rules across the BRFT. Towns could also have their own signs. Discussion also taking place on how to move forward with the CSX portion. CPC article is being considered to allocate funds for design work or inhouse construction work depending on how Sudbury decides to proceed. Mara will add this topic to the January agenda for additional updates.

Park and Recreation Funding Opportunities: Bobby said he and Ben thought it would be beneficial to have a dedicated meeting to discuss this topic perhaps in January or February. Mara stated the March meeting may be a good for that discussion.

Park and Recreation Property Ownership in Town: Mara reached out to the Planning Board regarding TI Sales Field and was told she needed to contact the Assessor's Office. TI- Sales Field has now been updated to show ownership is Park and Recreation. She is working on other properties to get documentation that proves ownership should be listed as Park and Recreation. Bobby suggested reviewing Town warrant articles at Town Meetings. Mara will update in January.

Conservation Partnership with Park and Recreation Properties: Mara mentioned the Commission received an email from a resident regarding Davis field mowing and the Bobolink nests. She has reached out to Laurie Capone, Conservation, and asked the Commission if they would like to invite her to a meeting to discuss this topic in February. Mara also questioned fertilization on the fields. Dennis said the Park and Grounds staff handles the fertilization of the fields and follows the proper practices regarding Town fields. It was decided that Mara will reach out to Conservation and bring back any information and report in the Chair Comments.

Review and Approve Minutes: Motion to approve the November 2022 minutes. Bobby seconded. Mara-yes, Bobby-yes, Jenn-yes. Motion passed in favor 3—0. Laurie did not vote since she was not at the November meeting.

Minutes from June 2022 and September 2021 are missing, but will be sent out for review once completed.

Next Meetings: January 9, 2022, February 13, 2022 and March 13, 2022

Motion to adjourn and seconded. Jenn-yes, Laurie-yes, Bobby-yes, Mara- yes. 4-0 in favor.

