

Virtual Meeting 6:36pm - February 13, 2023

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

Director, Dennis Mannone, Director Park and Recreation

**Public Comment:** None

Report from the Chair: Mara stated Town Elections are March 27<sup>th</sup> and thanked Ben for submitting papers again to serve on the Park and Recreation Commission. She encouraged voters to pay attention to the contested races and get out and vote. Mara reached out to the Planning Director in regard to the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The project will be outsourced to a contractor, but staffing is still needed on the inside to manage the project. Mara hopes to get time with the new Town Manager to discuss ideas to resolve the gridlock and get the project moving forward.

Mara said Fairbank Community Center is moving forward; furniture selections have been made, walls and roofs are up, locker rooms will be built next. Due to budget constraints, the front desk at the pool will now be straight now, instead of curved. Lights for the basketball court have been designed and the Select Board has allocated ARPA funds for design work for advanced audio visual. She said the new building is ADA compliant, but there is a need for an assisted listening system to help individuals with hearing impairments.

**Director Update:** Dennis sent out the Pool and Field Enterprise financials. Mara asked about the pool programs revenue numbers. Dennis said he isn't running programs at the pool, but funds from third party rentals are deposited in that line item if they are offering swim lessons. He does not have new information on the van at this time.

The Feeley Phase 1 bid package will go out the week of February 27<sup>th</sup>. A pre-bid meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the DPW building. Dennis is hopeful the architect will be able to attend or at least zoom into for any questions. Bids are due back March 15<sup>th</sup>, and then they will know where the budget stands. Hopefully contracts can be signed in early April so work can begin.

Mara asked about the status of the Revolving Fund. Dennis said programs are running seasonally as space allows with some programs are run by in-house staff and others by vendors. The fund does fluctuate due to when revenue comes in and expenses are paid out. Program Coordinators are responsible for tracking program revenue and expenses for individual programs. He said Terrific Twos is still running usually 15 kids per day, for 5 days a week. Laurie asked about summer camp. Dennis said Summer Camp registration will be March 1<sup>st</sup>, for both Sudbury Summer and Sudbury Adventure. He said numbers for both will be based on how many staff he can hire. The playground will be used again and shut down between 8:30am to 3pm. He is still not sure if the pool will be available based on the proposed pool repair timeline. If not, he will have to come up with other plans. Jenn asked if and how the information will be communicated to residents and users of the pool. Dennis said he hasn't been involved in the discussions, but the current shut down is planned for the end of May through all of June and then opening back up the beginning of July in time for camp. He is waiting for this timeline to be confirmed and definitive before he sends anything out. He said residents may be able to swim at Sewataro this summer free. Laurie asked how the Nashoba Ski Program. Dennis responded it is running even though the winter hasn't been great.

Bobby asked Dennis about the free swimming at Sewataro he mentioned earlier. Dennis said he heard it was part of the new contract with the vendor. Residents would be able to use the pool and pond for swimming in the summer after camp and on the weekends. He said it would be good for the residents, but may impact pool revenue. It was thought that expenses associated with the residents using the facilities would be deducted from the overall Sewataro expenses. Jenn suggested not speculating on the free swim and agreements before more information is known.

(Dennis left the meeting to attend another Town meeting.)

**Pool Pressure Test Results:** Mara said the Combined Facilities Director is managing this project. Divers visually inspected both lap and dive well using dye and also conducted pressure tests on the pipes. They found leaks in both pools which will be more expensive to fix than initially inspected. Bobby asked if the leaks were occurring before construction started. Dennis said the architects did some testing in the past and there were some leaks noted. Bobby stated it seemed like a major coincidence. Mara said it was a 30 plus year old pool, so this should not be surprising. Jenn questioned pool maintenance and said there may be some correlation to the construction, but it looks like the pool needs work for a while. Her big concern is where the water is going. Mara stated the two issues are pipes and grout that need repair and both are involved with the leaks. The piping is the highest priority item to get fixed first and the recommendation is to use ARPA funds. Mara said the Facilities Director also has an article for pool repairs for the spring Town meeting. She said there is a lot of cost benefit analysis going on now. She said the work on the pool will be a change of scope for the planned part of the building/pool repair project. The Facilities Director is looking at all the options and working with the Permanent Building Committee and contractor. Lots of questions, but no definitive answers yet. Mara said she would keep everyone informed.

**Close Out of Sudbury Foundation Fall Fest Grant:** Mara stated the Sudbury Foundation granted the Park and Recreation \$7,720 for the Fall Fest in 2022. The Department only used \$3,810 due to savings on food truck expenses. Mara confirmed that a final report had been sent to the Sudbury Foundation. Mara made a motion to return the remaining funds of \$3,910 to the Sudbury Foundation. Seconded. Vote: Bobby – yes, Laurie – yes, Jenn – yes, Mara – yes. Motion passed in favor 4-0.

**Haskell Pathway Update:** Bobby has been communicating with Phil from DPW; it has been difficult because it is not an official project at this time. Phil sent Bobby a diagram, but more detail is needed to get all the answers and the correct dimensions. He is still unsure how close the pathway can be to the fields. He wasn't sure of the next step, but felt the pathway would need to become an official project. Mara suggested contacting Dan Nason, Director of DPW, to see if he could allocate someone on his staff to work on the project to get clear answers on the impact on the current field layouts. Bobby said he will reach out to Dan. He also mentioned the ADA field plan the Facilities Director is working on as was approved by CPC. Bobby will contact Dan Nason and the Combined Facilities Director and report back to the Commission.

**BFRT Advisory Task Force Report:** Laurie reported clearing on the rail trail is occurring now. She said she is waiting to hear when the next Task Force meeting will take place, either the end of February or beginning of March. No set date for groundbreaking yet, but she expects it to be in spring. She said the Town applied to Mass Trails for a grant to fund some of the design of Phase 3. She said she would have more of an update after the next meeting.

**CPC Update:** Mara reported all Recreation focused articles that went before the CPC were approved. The articles included Feeley Field Phase 2, Accessible Pathways, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail CSX

extension, the Curtis Middle School outdoor wellness center, and the fence and lights for the Fairbank basketball court.

**P&R Property Designation on Town Maps:** Mara said there were three properties in question; Heritage Park, Lower Grinnell Park and Broadacres. Recreation is not listed as the owner on these properties. Mara has contacted the Assessor's office, the Planning Department and Town Clerk. After discussions, she felt the only way to get Recreation as the owner of the properties would be a Town Article designating ownership. She said the Commission could consider submitting articles if there is a fall Town Meeting or if not wait until the Town Meeting next spring. Mara will add this item to the April agenda for the Commission to decide how they want to proceed.

Jenn suggested starting work on this sooner to see what is actually involved. Mara offered to reach out to Town Council to get an opinion. Jenn asked if it might be possible to speak with the Planning Director to find out what the process may entail. Bobby agreed and suggested inviting the Planning Director to a Commission meeting. Mara expressed concern since he is required to go to so many meetings already. She thought it might be better to engage with the new Town Manager and invite him to a meeting, especially since they have a lot of issues that will go up to him anyway and it is really up to him to manage this issue.

Bobby said it would be fine to get the Town Manager involved, but felt it would be good to invite the Planning Director to get a good understanding what data is required for the Open Space Plan. Mara will email the Planning Director, to ask him about the process and invite him to a Commission meeting, perhaps the April meeting.

**Review of Codes from Town Clerk:** Mara explained the Town Clerk had funds to digitize all the codes in Town and hired a consultant to do the work. Two codes were thought to be for Recreation. One is related to Upper Hop Brook and the other to Willis Lake. Bobby questioned the Hopbrook violation code and thought it was more a Conservation property issue instead of Recreation. Mara said she would reply back to the Town Clerk that ponds may not be Recreation. The Willis Lake beach front is Recreation property but this code was also concerning violations on the water. After discussion, Mara will email the Town Clerk and ask questions to get clarification on authority of these properties.

**Review and Approve Meeting Minutes:** After discussion, motion to approve the September 21, 2021 minutes as amended. Seconded. Vote: Bobby – yes, Laurie, yes, Mara – yes. Jen – abstained, she was not on the Commission at that time. Vote passed in favor 3-0. Motion to approve the January 9<sup>th</sup> meetings with corrections. Seconded. Vote – Laurie – yes, Bobby -yes, Jenn – yes, Mara – yes. Vote passed in favor 4-0.

Next Meeting is scheduled for March 13 and will be focused on the roles and responsibilities and finances, in addition to reports from the Chair and Park and Recreation Director. Discussed possibility of changing meeting date to March 6. April 10<sup>th</sup> was confirmed as the meeting date in April.

Motion to Adjourn. Seconded by Bobby. Vote – Laurie – yes, Bobby – yes, Jenn – yes, Mara – yes. Vote passed in favor 4-0.

Meeting ended 8:05pm.