

Virtual Meeting 6:34 pm

November 13, 2023

Commissioners: Mara Huston, Laurie Eliason, Bobby Beagan

Guests: Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director, Zach Kaufman,

Roll Call –Mara – here, Bobby – here, Laurie – here

Public Comment – None

Chair Comment – Laurie stated Jennifer Stone resigned from the Park and Recreation Commission due to relocation. She thanked her for her service. Her seat is open and term runs until May of 2025. She said Park and Recreation Chair, Ben Carmel, will be working with the Select Board to fill the position. Laurie also reported that both pool Articles (6 and 7) passed at the fall Town meeting. Ben has reached out to the new Planning Director and invited to attend a future meeting.

Director Update – Department financials were sent out to the Commission. Pool is still lagging in revenue due to closures related to the move to the new Community Center. The pool will be closed again for 2 weeks in December due to the move to the new building. Dennis informed he has advertised again for an Aquatic Supervisor, but to date has not received any resumes. Field Enterprise Fund is \$17,000 in the positive. He reported the Parks and Grounds staff is down one staff member due to an internal transfer to the Highway department. He reported that Feeley Phase I will be completed in the next few weeks. He needs to find a new architect for Feeley Phase 2, since Warner Larson has chosen not to continue to work on the second half of the project. Dennis is hoping the bid will go out after Thanksgiving with work starting in spring or summer of next year.

Dennis said he is hopeful to have a bid package for the Smile playground sometime after Thanksgiving break with the plan for work to be done in the spring or summer. He said he is still not sure where summer camp will be next year.

Mara presented pictures of the dugouts at Feeley 1 and questioned the path from Feeley 1 to Feeley 2 and expressed concern the pathway goes through the third base dugout and then the first base dugout of Feeley 2. She was surprised the pathway wasn't behind the dugouts. Dennis said due to the layout of the field it was always the plan for the ADA pathway from Feeley 1 to Feeley 2 to go through the dugouts. He said the same thing will happen at upper Feeley.

Mara asked about additional cleaning at the Featherland tennis courts. She shared a photo of the court that was cleaned recently for safety reasons. She asked if there was a plan to clean the other 3 tennis courts. Dennis stated maintenance for the tennis courts does not come out of the Field Enterprise, so a cleaning schedule would be up the Parks and Grounds Department. Mara stated she thought cleaning of the courts should be incorporated in the overall Town maintenance plan. Dennis said maintenance of the tennis courts would be under Parks and Grounds.

Bobby asked about slice seeding at Haskell. Dennis said the weather cooperated so it was able to be completed; rain and warmer temperatures helped.

Commission Updates:

Rail Trail: Laurie reported the Rail Trail Advisory Committee had a site walk on the CSX portion a couple of weeks ago which was to further support 25% design. She said a follow up meeting is planned for this Wednesday.

Haskell Pathway: Bobby stated he was not able to set additional meetings to discuss the project. Dennis said he has had discussion with the Combined Facilities director in regard to the path and the impact it might have on the Haskell fields. Bobby will work with Dennis, DPW and the Combined Facilities Director to set up a meeting and see what needs to be done to move forward with the Haskell path.

Dennis had a brief conversation with the new Planning Director and discussed the Field Assessment and Open Space and Recreation Plan. He will be sending information, hopefully between the holidays, to Dennis and the Conservation Director to prepare for the RFP to get the ball rolling. It was suggested to invite the new Planning Director to a Commission meeting in a few months, once he has had time to review the information and send over materials. Laure asked Dennis to get them informed on any information he receives from the Planning Director.

Fairbank Community Center: Mara spoke with Jenny Pincus and reported the outside landscaping is done a great deal of work has been completed in the interior. The construction trailers have been moved to the Recreation side of the building. Permanent power to the new building is expected by Wednesday and then they hope to get the elevator inspection completed which has to be done by a state agency. Once that is complete, the next step is a fire inspection and an occupancy permit. The target date for furniture for the new building is November 30th. The shut down of the old building is schedule for December 11th thru December 20th. During the shutdown, the power will be switched over to the new building. The pool skimmer repairs will not be done during the shutdown and will done at a later date when the pool is shut down again. It was decided to delay the work due to funds and risk of contamination of the water and timing to cause a further delay in reopening. This work will be rolled into the design fund for the Atkinson Pool that was approved at the fall Town Meeting. Mara also reported a concern with site drainage issues where the old parking lot used to be located and some concern regarding flooding on Fairbank Road. Mara reported the sliding barn door initially planned for the gym had design issues and discussion with the general contractor are taking place at this time. The options are to put the barn door on later and fix the design issues or don't put the barn door on at all and use the funds for another part of the project. There is also an issue with the security camera technology. What was ordered doesn't work with the original design and there is a concern around interoperability with the video management system used by the police. The advanced audio-visual bids have been received and they meet the budget so hopefully contracts will be signed shortly. Dennis stated concern regarding swim team season and no pool lobby availability in addition to the temporary entrance and parking at Haskell. There will be no place for spectators. Mara stated the Combined Faculties Director has been in touch with the swim teams and no one has reached out with concern to her or Mara. Mara said during Covid spectators couldn't attend swim meets and this will only be for one season. Mara suggested perhaps spectators could use one of the shared spaces after 4pm while kids are practicing. Dennis said during Coved only one team was in the building now there will be two teams. He is concerned that parents will not want to drop off 7 -9-year-old, especially if they travel from out of Town with out adult supervision. He said it will be very challenging to figure out where people will wait for swimmers.

CPC update:

Featherland Field Dedication: Dan Peppercorn, Lewis Avenue, and Roger Nix, Commissioner of the Sudbury Men's Softball League attended to request permission for Men's Softball League to install a plaque at Featherland in memory of Neil Schiffman who passed away in September. Neil was active in the men's softball for over 29 years. They felt a plaque would honor his contributions and passion for the league, be a great tribute and keep his memory alive. They requested to hang a plaque in one of the

dugouts at Featherland and would be responsible for all costs associated with purchasing and maintaining the plaque. Bobby made a motion to approve this request. Mara seconded the motion. Commission discussed the dugout location of the plaque and the possibility of adding other names in the future to the plaque. After discussion, Bobby made an amendment to his motion to allow the plaque to allow for additional names to be added at a future date if that is something Men's Softball would like to do so they don't have to come back to the Commission for approval. Mara seconded the amendment.

Vote on amendment to the motion. Mara-yes, Bobby-yes, Laurie-yes. Amended motion passed in favor 3-0. Vote on original motion. Mara-yes, Bobby-yes, Laurie-yes. Motion passed in favor 3-0.

CPC Applications- Laurie suggested postponing this discussion until Marsha Ramason, the consultant on the project, can attend the Park and Recreation Commission meeting in December. Laurie said Marsha is the Town consultant on the rail trails. One of the applications she is working on is to make improvements to the actual dedicated entrance to the Parkinson's field. Laurie stated if the Commission wanted to send a letter of support they would have to turn it around quickly. Mara said this is the only CPC article that is related to Recreation this year. She agreed it would be good to have Marsha come to the December meeting to present the Parkinson Field Driveway expansion. She thought this should be a voting agenda item so the Commission could take a position. Dennis said he met with Marsha a week ago and talked about the concerns and access issues to the field.

Soccer/Lacrosse wall at Haskell – Zach Kaufman, 17 Butler, stated he met with Dennis and Tom, the Parks and Grounds Foreman regarding the location of the wall on Haskell field. The suggested location of the wall was shown to the Commission. The wall would be built on a pad which would allow less mowing and easier maintenance. Both sides of the wall would be able to be used. Commission expressed concern about balls going into the street. Dennis said he thought it would be far enough away from the road and additional shrubs would be planted. Laurie was still concerned there would not be a fence between the wall and the road. Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director, stated this would be a pretty big structure and suggested Youth Lacrosse reach out to Andrew Lewis, Building Inspector, since a structure this size would require a foundation likely a permit and probably have to go through the procurement process. Youth Lacrosse will reach out the Building Inspector and then come back to the Commission with his recommendations. Bobby asked Dennis his opinion. Dennis wasn't sure the request had to go through the procurement process, but said the Commission could vote on the location tonight so Youth Lacrosse could now where the wall would be located. Mara stated she would not be able to vote because she still wanted to walk the location to see where it will actually be located and see the space. Laurie stated she would be fine waiting until December to vote on this request. Bobby said he was okay with the location because it is tucked away and not interfering with the walkway path. Zach will reach out to the Commission once he meets with the Building Inspector.

Atkinson Scoreboard – Dan Lee, Director of Athletics, LSRHS, asked to be on the agenda to find out the steps to take to get the new scoreboard the LSRHS and Sudbury Swim Team will be purchasing to replace the current scoreboard at the Atkinson Pool. Funding has been secured and Dan already spoke with Dennis and is looking for how to get the new scoreboard installed and the gift accepted by the Town. The installation expenses and process will be covered by the funds secured for the scoreboard. Maintenance will be covered by LSRHS and the Sudbury Swim Team. He said he was told the installation would take at the most one day.

Dan said if the Commission approves of the request he will speak with the Select Board tomorrow night and if the gift is approved they will purchase the scoreboard and move forward with the installation sometime after the new year. Mara asked about the removal of the old scoreboard. Dan said he had a discussion with Dennis and Sandra regarding the removal and installation of the scoreboard.

Mara asked about the connection of the new scoreboard to the monitors in the new facility so the information from the scoreboards could be seen. Dan was unsure but would check in to that and report back to the Commission. Sandra said she would be happy to speak with Dan as the installation gets closer since she is getting the AV bids back and will have more information once the contract is finalized.

A motion was made to agree to replace the old scoreboard with a new scoreboard funded by LSRHS and the Sudbury Swim Team. Mara seconded the motion. Vote: Mara- yes, Bobby – yes, Laurie – yes. Motion passed 3-0 in favor. Laurie will send an email to the Select Board informing them of the results of the motion and the Commissions support.

Bobby asked Sandra about the video management system, and if there was going to be any issues with compatibility. Sandra said there were some issues regarding compatibility but they were able to work out a patch for the systems to work together.

Approval of Minutes – Motion made to approve the September 11, 2023 minutes. Seconded. Vote: Mara - yes, Bobby - yes, Laurie - yes. Motion passed 3-0 in favor.

Motion to approve the October 2, 2023 minutes with corrections. Seconded. Vote: Mara – yes, Bobby – yes, Laurie – yes. Motion passed 3-0 in favor.

Next meeting is December 4th. January meeting date still to be determined.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Vote: Mara – yes, Bobby – yes, Laurie – yes. Motion passed in favor 3-0. Meeting adjourned 8:50pm.