

Virtual Meeting 6:33 pm

April 1, 2024

Commissioners: Mara Huston, Laurie Eliason, Bobby Beagan, Granger Atkeson, Ben Carmel-Chair
Dennis Mannone - Dir Park and Recreation

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

Public Comment: None

Chair Update: Ben reviewed agenda for meeting and said his chair update will be included with Commission updates.

Park and Rec Director Update: Financials for Pool and Field Enterprise Funds distributed. Dive well is closed temporarily. Pool is still short on supervisor staff, hours have been adjusted to accommodate. Fields are currently closed. Rain is forecasted this week, may be able to open fields for a few days if lining is completed and field is dry enough to move nets. Bathrooms won't be open for a few weeks, so portable bathrooms have been ordered for a few weeks. Spring Recreation programs will begin soon and April vacation programs are being offered. Dennis reported renovation of the Smile/Haskell playground will have to wait until the fall. The punch list at Feeley Field needs to be completed by the contractor, weather has caused delays. Summer camp will be using the Haskell playground again for the third summer. He will send out a note letting residents know the playground will not be available from 8:30 to 2:30pm Monday through Friday during July and two weeks in August. Granger asked about the lower field maintenance costs. Dennis stated field expenses are normally lower in the winter months and then pick up April through June. Ben asked about the field revenue and if most user groups are paid up. Dennis said most have paid, but it takes a few weeks for the deposits to catch up with the Town financial reports. Mara asked if the dive well issue can be resolved in the short term or if it will have to wait until approval of the Town meeting articles. Dennis referred questions to Sandra Duran, the Combined Facilities Director. Laurie asked about signups for April vacation camps. Dennis said signups are low so some programs were cancelled; may offer some basketball programs in the gym. Ben asked about the timing of the Smile/Haskell playground work. Dennis will work with the architect once the actual bid documents are ready to be sent out. Work may be able to start in the fall before weather gets too cold and then finish in early spring. Ben asked about the field assessment project. Dennis exchanged a few emails with the Director of Planning and they came up with a rough outline for the project. He discussed the possibility of user group meetings with Adam and the consultant to gather additional information, plus the possibility of public hearings. Bobby asked for the budget numbers for the Smile playground renovation. Total was around \$285,000, some of the funds have been spent already on reports required for the project. Dennis is concerned about inflation and cost of the pour and play surface; they will have to see what the bids come in at to determine how the budget is impacted. Bobby suggested reviewing the plan for Haskell playground at a future meeting. Bobby asked about the progress on the second well at Haskell. Dennis said the funds are still available, but there were issues installing the second well, so the project has not moved forward. Bobby asked for the second well at Haskell to be added as a future agenda item.

Commission updates: Ben discussed the possibility of holding a user group meeting to figure out short and long term needs and to get feedback especially as the Commissions deals with the different policies regarding Town fields. Bobby thought a user group survey and meeting would be a good way to get

good information. Granger agreed and stated the survey information could add structure to the group meeting conversation. Laurie expressed concern over possibly surveying them too much if they also have to give information for the Field Assessment Study. Bobby thought it would be a great way to get preliminary information and it is still not clear when the Field Assessment Study will be started. Ben said it would be good to make sure requests for information were not done at the same time. Dennis thought it would be great to have some type of capital form for field work that user groups request and plan to pay for, such as the Cutting netting, lacrosse wall etc. and then the process/policy to get approvals. Ben stated there was no urgency, but important to discuss now and plan for something in the off season.

Rail Trail – Laurie reported there will be a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the public forum/information session that will take place on April 23. The Committee will be providing updates on both trails as well as answering questions and offering information on the Town meeting articles. Commissioners discussed support for the article regarding parking at the TI sales field. Mara suggested the PRC could be prepared with a statement of support at Town meeting and suggested that the Chair should be the spokesperson or a delegate and state why it is important from a Recreation perspective. Mara added if the Commission wanted to send a letter of support the PRC would need to take a vote.

Mara suggested the Chair or his delegate be prepared to speak to the PRC positions on the Town Recreation warrant articles and results of any votes taken. Ben said he would review that information and send out to the Commission before Town meeting.

Haskell and Pathways Update: Ben suggested discussion of this update during Sandra's presentation.

CPC Update - Mara said the CPC is meeting this week to review a backlog of meeting minutes with the goal to have them posted before Town meeting.

Fairbank Update – Mara reported the drainage issues in the Commons area will be fixed separately. The contractor is currently working on the Recreation side of the building. The outside light posts, basketball posts, fence posts and ground work for basketball court has been done. Painting inside is just about complete and lobby lights have been installed. Currently working on parking lot, metal framing for Recreation entrance and windows. Work has begun on installation of the Recreation front desk. Outside work on the Recreation side may close down the temporary Recreation entrance, so everyone will have to use the Senior Center entrance for period of time. AV materials have been ordered. Inside of the Recreation side is expected to be complete by the end of April, but that area can't be used until the outside is completed since emergency exit can't be into a construction site. The barn door has been delivered but needs to be installed.

Warrant & Facilities Discussion – Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director, addressed the Town meeting warrant article which is a culmination of all items that need to be addressed at the Atkinson Pool in the new Fairbank Community Center. The article includes a new pool pack (dehumidification unit), re-grout interior of lap and dive well and some tile repair on the deck, some piping work that needs to be completed, water filtration system replacement, possibly separate boiler from the chemical room in some capacity and the article would also address some structural concerns relative to the boiler room along with a new roof for the pool. The article will cover design and construction oversight. Ben asked if there was anything else that might need to be fixed at the pool which would require a request for more funds. Sandra likened the repairs to the pool as putting in a new engine on an antique car. It

will always be an older facility, but she thought these repairs would put the pool in good working order moving forward. The total funding request of the article is \$2,350,000. Sandra added if the funds are approved at Town meeting the pool will be closed for a period of time as the work is completed. Mara asked how long the pool would be shut down to complete all the work in the article. Sandra did not have a specific number, but will get back to the Commission with a better estimate for the shutdown. Mara asked how the repairs to the pool would be funded. Sandra suggested that questions should be directed to the Director of Finance in Town. Ben asked what would happen if the article for repairs doesn't pass. Sandra said in the worst-case scenario they would keep running the pool and do patch work as issues come up. The dive well is continuing to leak and Sandra is gathering data to understand the root cause of the leak and amount of leaking. Bobby asked Sandra about the EPA report. She stated the Town received an anonymous EPA citizen complaint complaining that chlorinated water was leaking into the groundwater which required an immediate response from the Town. As a result, the dive well was dechlorinated and closed to the public. Bobby expressed concern about the article passing at Town meeting since residents may ask why the problems with the pool were not included in the funds for the new Community Center. Laurie stated there will need to be good communication stating why the article needs to pass. Bobby expressed concern about the amount of time, cost, difficulty staffing of the pool and the impact on the Recreation Department. Mara said she thought there was a good network of communication between the teams that use the pool to get the word out to vote for this article. Mara stated the Commission needed to make a motion to support this article. Bobby stated he would need more information and numbers. He would like to see how many Sudbury residents are using the pool, how much money is the pool generating and is it covering the costs of the pool expenses. Laurie stated the LSRHS uses the pool along with the Sudbury swim team. Mara stated she thought the funding for the article was in-levy debt which means the debt expenses are covered within the tax revenue and will not raise taxes. After discussion it was decided not to vote on the article until the funding source is known. It was also decided to schedule another Park and Recreation Commission meeting before Town meeting once the funding source is confirmed and take a vote on supporting the article. Ben will work to arrange a meeting the first week of May. The meeting will focus on the warrant articles that relate to Park and Recreation and the position of the Park and Recreation Commission on the articles. In addition, discuss who will speak on the articles if necessary.

Ben asked Sandra to clarify why summer camp can't be held on the grass at the new Sudbury Community Center. Sandra stated the contractor hydro seeded the land behind and around the Senior Center last fall and the contractor is currently working on the Recreation side of the building. The contractual agreement to maintain the grass require that it is free from any type of use for a period of time so it can grow and get established. The grass can't be used by the camp or others without voiding the warranty. She stated the parking lot and basketball court could be used. The current completion date for the parking lot and Recreation side is the middle of June. She stated the drainage in the front of the building is expected to be complete by the fall.

Haskell Field Walk – Bobby sent out meeting minutes for review. He asked Sandra if she had looked into the mat for the field to make it more handicap accessible and Sandra said she thought Tom Russo, Parks and Grounds, was going to look into it and see how much more might be needed. She said it does make the grass more difficult to mow around it, so a weed whacker might be needed which makes the grass take more time to mow. She stated this would be the case with any type of pathway on the field.

Ben stated the public meeting on the field took place on March 21st, 2024. The goal of the meeting was to see the site of the proposed lacrosse wall and look at the impact and possibility of the accessible pathways. The Commission also discussed additional handicap parking on the southwest side of Haskell Field. The field is not easily handicapped accessible in its current state. Bobby added the Commission is cognizant of the easement regarding Butler Place and would follow up with the Town attorney for clarification on the agreement. Sandra thought additional handicapped parking on the southwest side of Haskell would be great. She said the next step for the parking spaces would be to get a design. She will need to have a civil engineer draw up the plans and then go out to bid. She will look into funding and see if it might be included in the ADA plan. If funding is not available there, it may need to be a CPC article. The Lacrosse wall is still an open issue after various options were discussed by the Commission. Bobby will stay in contact with Youth Lacrosse regarding this request.

Pool Article follow up: Mara stated she found information on the pool article funding. Article 23 said the funding will be to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$2,350 million. There will be no increase in taxes to pay for the work at the pool. The cost will be covered by future in-levy debt. Ben suggested reaching out to the Park and Recreation Finance Committee liaison and ask them to attend the next Park and Recreating meeting. Mara stated the Finance Board, Select Board and CIAC supported approval of the pool repair article.

Mara made a motion to support Article 23 Atkinson Pool renovations since they found out the plan for the funding. Laurie seconded the motion. Vote: Mara – yes, Laurie – yes, Granger – yes, Bobby – yes, Ben yes. Vote passed in favor 5-0.

Commission discussed meeting in early May before Town meeting in order to discuss positions on various articles and who may speak on them at Town Meeting.

Cutting Field Improvements/Curtis Field Update – Dennis stated both topics are not ready for discussion and said they could wait until the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn. Laurie seconded. Granger – yes, Bobby – yes, Mara – yes, Laurie – yes, Ben – yes, Motion passed 5-0 in favor.