

Virtual Meeting 06:34 pm

February 11, 2025

Commissioners: Mara Huston, Bobby Beagan, Granger Atkeson, Laurie Eliason, Ben Carmel, Chair

Guests: Vivian Zeng, Board of Health, Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director

Park and Recreation: Dennis Mannone – Director

Roll Call: Granger – here, Mara – here, Laurie – here, Ben - here. Bobby joined at 6:39 pm.

**Public Comment:** None

**Director Comments:** Dennis reported Sudbury Summer camp and Adventure camp sign-ups are have started. Recreation will offer additional programs during the summer. He will hold pool comments to the agenda discussion. The Smile Playground bid was awarded to the lowest bidder and the contract is currently being reviewed; work will begin the end of June with a completion expected around August/September. The Field Assessment is going well, still waiting for a few user groups to respond to the survey. He met with Gale and discussed to discuss the initial survey data. Next phase will include supplying maintenance data on the fields. There will be additional meetings and then a public meeting of some type. Dennis thought the public meeting might be a Commission meeting in the spring. Mara asked how to get information from the groups that haven't responded. Ben will address that during the Field Assessment discussion. Mara asked for an Enterprise Fund update. Dennis will get a report from the Finance Director. Mara asked if a Commissioner should be assigned to the playground project since the Commission may receive questions from residents. Bobby asked if there were any documents from the field assessment study that could be shared with the Commission. Dennis will share any documents when he has something more final. Granger offered to work on the Field Assessment project with Bobby.

**Current Pool Status and Renovation Plan:** Ben stated Vivian Zeng, Board of Health Director and Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director, were invited to get their input on the pool issues along with Dennis and the pool staff. Vivian said her department received phone calls from parents regarding indoor air quality concerns during swim team practice. She visited the pool on January 8<sup>th</sup> during a swim team practice and her testing found elevated levels of combined chlorine. Once notified, Dennis closed the pool immediately at 5:30pm. The pool was shocked, but this did not fix the problem and the test numbers were above state standards. The Combined Facilities Director and Dennis had already installed some commercial grade industrial fans which helped move the air on the pool deck. A decision was made to install a UV Filter on the lap pool and fortunately the staff was able to get everything required done within a month. Vivian did the re-opening inspection last Friday and the tests met the state code for both the lap pool and dive pool.

Vivian is concerned about the maintenance component of the UV bulbs, so there will need to be a maintenance plan established that must be followed. It is also imperative to make sure all swimmers pre-rinse before entering the pool. The pool staff is working on updating user agreements to make sure the requirement to pre-rinse is in the contracts. Vivian requested the pool staff start using a new testing kit, which is more expensive, but slightly more accurate. The staff is testing 4 times a day and keeping records of all data. She added several staff are Certified Pool Operators. Ben asked if this problem is something that usually happens to pools. Vivian said the combined chlorine concerns occur more with indoor pools because of indoor ventilation. She said this pool has many challenges due to the age of the

facility and the active leaks, which means the pool chemistry is constantly in need of balancing. Many of these issues will be addressed with the upcoming pool renovations.

Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director, informed the bids for the pool renovations she received far exceeded the funding approved for the project. The project is currently being reviewed to see what could be value engineered out, but still bring about a deliverable that makes a substantial difference in the quality of air and water. The dehumidification unit is a priority along with sand filter replacement, skimmers and grouting. She expects to have more information on the scope of the project by the next Commission meeting. The roof of the pool will also be replaced, fortunately that bid came in under budget and the contract has been signed and is just waiting for Select board approval.

Mara asked if the pool would need to be shut down. Sandra is still working on the exact timeframe for all the work to be completed and said it may need to be done at different times. She will update the Commission when she has more information, but is still planning on doing the majority of work during the planned shutdown in August, after summer camp concludes. Ben asked for clarification on the shutdowns and how many that might be and the impact to the pool revenue. Sandra replied that if just the dehumidification unit is installed, it would be a small shutdown, since the prep work can be done ahead. The grouting and roof work will be longer, more like a five to six week shut down. She said replacement of the sand filters could also be done at that time.

Laurie thought whatever is most critical to keep the pool open and available during swim team season should be the immediate focus for the funds. Sandra said they are looking at all the options at this time. She said she would be surprised if there was still a significant pool leak after the grouting because all the piping had already been replaced.

Mara asked if the pool retained earnings could be used for any of the repairs and if so, how would that be accomplished. Dennis expects the purchase of the UV Filter, approximately \$50,000, could be covered in the operating budget. He will request a report for the current amount of retained earnings available for use. He expects to use some of the retained earnings during the proposed pool shutdown in August. He also stated some of the retained earnings could be used for the ongoing maintenance costs for operation of the pool. There was discussion of setting up a separate stabilization fund for maintenance of the pool.

Dennis mentioned the pool is still leaking. He said the pool was closed for about a month recently and the loss was 90,000 gallons with no swimmers.

**CPC Project Review and Update** – Commission discussed the status of the CPC projects, Feeley Phase 1 and 2, Haskell Playground Renovation, Haskell pathways, the new Haskell project and the Field User Assessment/Open Space Recreation Plan. Dennis reported Feeley Phase 1 has been completed, but has funds leftover that may be able to be used for some of the work planned for Phase 2. The architect of record did a preliminary look at the Phase 2 project, but has chosen not to continue working on the Feeley project. Dennis' thoughts are that it would be better to wait until the Field Needs Assessment is completed to see if the thought is still to develop lower Feeley Field or another area where softball fields could be added for either less money or a space that isn't as wet. It was discussed that remaining funds from Phase 1 could be used for dugouts and a pathway to Feeley 2. Dennis will confirm with legal. Commission discussed posting a CPC document that would show all recreation CPC project approvals with dollar amounts and any funds remaining.

Dennis reported that removal of the trees at the Haskell playground has begun at the Haskell Playground. Parks and Grounds was able to do some of the work before snow storms. The plan is to shut the playground down around the end of June for a couple of months. Bobby said there was no update on the pathways. Sandra added there were site issues and they are interested in the results of the Field User Assessment to see how the circuit path interacts with the plans for Haskell field.

Dennis confirmed he is still waiting for a few responses to the Field Assessment Survey. Commissioners offered to contact the groups that haven't responded.

**Review signage at Fields** – Dennis and Bobby discussed conversations they had with Chief Nix on field signage. They confirmed with the Town Counsel that Sudbury has a leash law for dogs. The signs would note that Sudbury has a leash law and all dogs should be on a leash and not allowed to run free on fields. This is to educate people about the leash law and prevent some of the recent incidents where dogs have attacked other dogs or people on the fields. Dennis said the DPW would be funding the expense for the signs and the thought would be to put them up in the spring especially at Haskell and Davis. They discussed signs that say no motorized vehicles are allowed on the fields, especially at Haskell which is where golf carts and other motorized vehicles have been seen on the fields. In addition, discussion on adding more no parking signs at Haskell. Dennis also mentioned something will need to be done with the exercise equipment on the corner of Haskell and Fairbank since much of the equipment is showing signs of age and the cage where soccer nets are stored should also be in discussions.

**Commission Updates** – Ben discussed goal setting and priorities for the Commission. Mara asked if there could be more discussion on the availability of community groups and community members to use the Fairbank Community Center. Ben mentioned a letter that was sent by Sudbury residents requesting to use the Fairbank Community Center. Sandra Duran offered that staff has met several times on this topic and they are still working through the operational logistics of oversight for any groups to use the facility during daily normal business hours and at night. Mara asked when a plan will be in place. Sandra stated discussions were ongoing in terms of logistics, staffing, funding, and overall support to entertain use by outside groups in the new Fairbank building. She said she did not have the specifics Mara was looking for at this time and she could not speak for the Town Manager on the plan. She understands the desires and requests, but the Town wants to be sure they can support anything offered to the residents. In addition there is still acoustical issues that need to be completed in the building. She wasn't sure where funding for night staff would come from and that would be a Town Manager and Finance Director decision. Unfortunately, when the building was built, there wasn't a plan for the operational cost of running the building for outside use. The Commissioners will continue to discuss the topic and advocate for residents to be able to use the new facility.

Ben stated Fairbank will continue to be one of the Commissions goals. Laurie offered she has a rail trail meeting tomorrow evening, so she will have an update for the next meeting. Dennis offered to have his staff attend occasional meetings to update Commissioners on programs and activities.

**Approval of Minutes** – Motion made to approve the January 9<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended. Motion was seconded. Vote: Mara – yes, Laurie – yes, Bobby – yes, Ben – yes. Motion passed 4-0 in favor. Granger had to leave the meeting at this time no vote.

Mara made a motion to approve the October 2024 minutes. Seconded by Laurie. Vote: Bobby – yes, Laurie – yes, Mara – yes, Ben – yes. Motion passed in favor 4-0.

Mara made a motion to approve the November 2024 minutes. Laurie seconded the motion. Vote: Bobby – yes, Laurie – yes, Mara – yes, Ben – yes. Motion passed in favor 4-0.

Mara made a motion to approve the December 2024 minutes. Seconded by Laurie. Vote: Bobby – yes, Laurie – yes, Mara – yes, Ben – yes. Motion passed in favor – 4-0.

Ben will send out an email regarding dates for the next meetings in March and April.

Motion to adjourn, seconded by Bobby. Vote; Laurie – yes, Mara – yes, Bobby – yes, Ben -yes. Motion passed in favor 4-0.