

Virtual Meeting 06:34 pm

April 14, 2025

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

Guests: Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director, Dennis Mannone, Park and Recreation Director

Roll Call: Mara - here, Laurie - here, Granger – here, Bobby – here, Ben - here.

Chair Comments: Ben noted that Sandra Duran was in attendance to speak about the Fairbank/Haskell CPC article and the pool discussion. He also noted that Grainger would leave the meeting at 7:10pm to attend the FinCom meeting to present additional information regarding the Fairbank/Haskell CPC article. Commission will discuss that topic first, then open to public comment and revisit the topic when Granger returns.

CPC Article Fairbank and Haskell Master Plan Discussion- Granger will attend the FinCom meeting to address confusion that stemmed from an outdated version of the CPC Haskell Master Plan warrant article that was circulated without all the details, which may have impacted their vote. In addition, he will clarify the funding status on the Feeley CPC article. Mara added that the second basketball court was value engineered out, but the pavilion is new. She added that recreation was the only organization that had outdoor assets it could put off for the benefit of the new Community Center. Mara mentioned the article was on the consent calendar and Sandra stated it only takes 7 individuals to call it off the Consent calendar. Sandra will present the article if it is taken off the consent calendar. Commission also discussed what Granger would be presenting to the FinCom to be sure the information they had was accurate. He will encourage a revote on the CPC Haskell article after his presentation to the FinCom.

Public Comment – Ben reminded anyone speaking during public comment that there is a 3-minute time limit and the Commission is not allowed to respond to comments. He also asked that if someone has already made a point or comment to please not repeat what has already been said by someone. Mara suggested also sending emails to the Town Manager and Finance Director were not in attendance. Maura Maher, 96 Bent Road, spoke in support of the pool and was in support of the necessary repairs and stated the pool was a valuable asset. Mark Goldman, 12 Lombard Lane, spoke in support of funding the pool article. He added the pool brings physical benefits in addition to mental wellness elements and life skills that are very important, such as learning to swim. He felt not having a pool would impact the school spirit and reduce the number of people who move to Sudbury as a place to educate their children. Nancy Marks, 56 Washington Drive, spoke in support of the pool article. She felt the pool was an important part of the community. John and Alyssa Forrester, 29 Stone Root Lane, spoke in support of the pool. They said that the pool isn't just for kids, but for people of all ages. They also suggested putting solar panels on the roof to offset some of the expenses tied to the operating budget. Kristen Kazarnowitz, 46 Stearns Lane, spoke in support of the pool. She said the pool is an asset to the Town and was a non-negotiable when they were looking for a place to buy a home and added when the pool was shut down, it was difficult to find other pools for the LSHS and Sudbury Swim team to practice. She also felt the pool was a very affordable way to get exercise. Janie Dretler, Goodman's Hill, a member of the Select Board, but speaking as a resident. She was excited to hear all the comments about supporting the Atkinson Pool. She said the Select Board had not taken a vote on the article yet, but was expected to do so soon. She asked the Commission to take a position on Article 54, a citizen's petition to reduce the CPA act from 3% down to 1 ½%. This would reduce revenue for open space recreation programs and will also reduce the state match the Town receives. As a resident, she asked the Commission to take the discussion up at the next meeting and perhaps make a statement or take a position. Josh, Meredith and

Mary Phelps, 20 Linden Road, spoke in support of funding the pool article. Josh stated his children have learned to swim at Atkinson and his two oldest are now on the LSRHS swim team. His children are home schooled, so the pool is a place to meet friends and his daughter Mary is now employed as a lifeguard at the pool. The pool has benefitted their family and the relationship they have with the community. Mary stated the pool and swim teams were some of the biggest opportunities to interact with people and she has made best friends through her involvement with swimming and she enjoys working at the pool with Supervisor, Lynne Ziffer. Matt Skelly, 45 Shadow Oak Drive, spoke in support of funding the pool article. He felt the pool/community center shows what it feels like to be part of a community and share common spaces and experiences. Jackie Harder, 201 Union Avenue, spoke in favor of funding the Atkinson Pool article. She did not vote for the community center, but felt the pool article should be supported since the Town voted for the new community center. Laura Gamel, 166 Marlborough Road, spoke in support of the pool article and said when the new high school was built a number of years ago, a decision was made not to include a pool because the high school team used Atkinson pool. Kim Owens, 44 Brimstone Lane, spoke in favor of the article. She felt the pool was an investment for the Town and allowing it to deteriorate would end up costing the Town money. Cara Luther, 100 Thunder Road, spoke in favor of the pool article. She swam at the pool as a young child and now her children swim at the pool and are members of the Sudbury Swim team community. She felt the pool should be a priority for the Town. Katie Papadaki, 64 Tinberg Road, spoke in favor of the pool article. She felt closing the pool would remove opportunities for people to make friends, meet new people and develop core memories for users. Gaurav Vohra, 28 Oakwood Avenue, spoke in support of the pool. He comes from India, and said there is not a culture of swimming, so he is very grateful his children have the opportunity to swim at Atkinson pool. He added that swimming is a very important safety skill to learn. Ben suggested sending an email to the Park and Recreation Commission, Town Manager, Finance Director and Combined Facilities Director with any comments supporting the pool article.

Director Comment: Dennis asked if the Commission had any questions for him due to the full agenda. Ben asked if the soccer nets at the Peter Noyes school were owned by the Park and Recreation Department. Dennis said they are owned by Sudbury Youth Soccer. Bobby offered to speak with Sudbury Youth soccer to see if they had any nets they could donate or were interested in replacing the nets at Noyes. Commission discussed contacting the Sudbury Public Schools and Park and Grounds to discuss this topic further and see who is responsible for the maintenance of these nets.

Ben asked Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director, about the status of the pool bid and what the options are for the Town. Sandra said repairs to the pool center on three areas, the infrastructure, the HVAC, and tile replacement. Replacement of the roof is a separate bid, which came in under budget. The bid for the other work at the pool covered the mechanical room, reconfiguration and renovation, new sand filters and a separation of the chemical room and the boiler. The tile work which included work on the skimmers and investigating the pool leaks. The bids came back higher than expected and exceeded the funds approved by the Town. She stated after discussion, they decided to change the scope of the project a bit and rebid it. She said the returned bids will help them determine how much money to ask for at Town Meeting, she hoped to have that information before the next Commission meeting. Mara asked if the new roof would be solar ready, to which Sandra answered yes and added the roof funds are part of the funds already approved by the Town. Laurie clarified the current Town meeting article is a place holder for the pool repairs and once the exact amount needed is known the Town will decide if they want to move forward with the article.

Mara asked about bid alternatives. Alternative one is performing leak detection in the lap pool. Alternative two is to remove the non-functioning lap pool autofill system and provide a new autofill system. Alternative three is to perform a comprehensive cleaning of the tile.

Sandra stated the Finance Director, Town Manager and herself will look at the bids and determine the best way to move forward with the project. Ben asked if the Town Manager, Finance Director, Sandra and Dennis could discuss the returned bids and thoughts on it at the next Commission meeting. Sandra agreed and Ben will put out a request for a date that works for all. Mara suggested a member of the Commission be included in the discussions, and Sandra stated she should contact the Town Manager.

Ben noted that Granger rejoined the meeting at 8:20pm.

Dennis noted the news that the pool would need to be shut down for 4 weeks for the roof repair was news to him. He expressed concern if the pool renovation bids came in high and additional funds were not approved this may mean an additional shut down for the pool. He was also concerned about the leaks. Ben stated these concerns should be addressed when the Commission meets again in a few weeks to discuss the returned bid information.

Mara and Laurie presented their Atkinson Pool Utilization information which will help educate Sudbury residents about the Atkinson Pool. The presentation covered benefits of the pool, usage, rentals, funding and the history of the pool. Laurie suggested adding this document to the website along with the approved meeting minutes.

Granger reported on the FinCom meeting and said he was able to clarify some of the Town Meeting articles involving Recreation including the pool renovation. He suggested they consider a revote on the pool renovation article. He didn't know if they would have time to revote tonight, but definitely thought there was interest in reconsideration for a revote within the committee members. Mara noted later in the meeting that she was informed the FinCom voted 7-2 to reconsider the decision on the pool renovation and then voted 7-2 in favor of the warrant article.

Ben asked about status of the Field Needs Assessment. Dennis stated the next meeting is Thursday, April 17th. Gale will discuss their initial thoughts on the input they received and run through a draft version of the assessment itself. There will be some discussion and feedback on the data. Dennis discussed inviting the user groups to a Commission meeting. The plan would then be to take the feedback from the meeting and produce the final version of the Field Assessment Survey. It was thought this topic should be the only one on the agenda that night.

Laurie noted her Rail Trail appointment as the Park and Recreation liaison has expired. Bobby made a motion to reappoint Laurie to the position until her term as a Park and Recreation Commissioner expires in May of 2027. Mara seconded the motion. Vote: Granger – yes, Bobby – yes, Mara- yes, Laurie – yes, Ben – Yes. Vote passed in favor 5-0.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 29th. Ben will confirm with the Town Manager and Finance Director. The focus of the meeting will be pool renovation bids and future plans. Article 54 may be discussed, but Dennis thought Article 54 might get pulled, because it may not be needed.

Approval of Minutes – Motion made to approve the February 11th meeting minutes as amended. Granger seconded the motion. Vote: Mara – yes, Laurie – yes, Bobby – yes, Granger – yes, Ben – yes. Vote passed 5-0 in favor.

Motion made to approve the March 10th meeting minutes as amended. Laurie seconded the motion. Vote: Granger – yes, Bobby – yes, Laurie – yes, Mara – yes, Ben – yes. Vote passed 5-0 in favor.

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