

**Recreation Commission Meeting**

12/12/22

Zoom

DATE: January 10, 2023

TIME: 9:07 AM

Commission Attendees: Paul Cowing (chair), David Lind (vice chair), Cortney Eldridge (secretary), Steve Warner, Anthony Ferrante, Joshua Gould

Town Attendees: Brandon Fitts

Call to order 5:34pm

**Minutes from last month:**

Brandon to add Suzanne's last name; no other comments, suggestions, changes

In favor: Cortney Eldridge, Steve Warner, Paul Cowing, Josh Gould

Abstain: Anthony Ferrante, David Lind

**Director's Update** (Brandon/Paul):

David Kane is resigning from the commission – unanticipated agenda item/emergency vote needed

- The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) liaison position must be filled
- Discussion on committee, commitment required, etc.
- David Lind could commit through next 6 months and then we reevaluate after Town Meeting
- We must fill our own commission member in the next 30 days too
- David Lind must go to Town Clerk's meeting tomorrow to be sworn in as CPC liaison; attend meeting Wednesday (and full voting power) for applications under discussion Wednesday; need to be approved by Select Board

Nomination: David Lind to serve as our CPC liaison

In favor: David Lind, Cortney, Steve Warner, Anthony, Paul, Josh

Rink Update:

- Opened late due to equipment; condensers needed repairs
- Currently open for the season
- Cost of HS to go offsite for five hours a week (Watertown) was \$2,200
- If we lose another weekend, we'll need to refund/cancel programs
- First home games coming up
- Struggling to find staff (lost time for training)

Discussion:

- We do not charge school groups to use recreation facilities; we (recreation) are charged custodial fees
- School does not charge groups to use their facilities (e.g., Harris Field)
- Will unlikely break even on rink due to delays but will get close

Dogs Update:

- May need to step back from plan for public meetings [we discussed last month]
- Brandon and Julie Lemay (Health Dept) met to discuss; also talked to Animal Control Officer (Suzanne) and Police Chief (MacIsaac)
- Want to see if and where we can build a dog park in Town; discussing with Stanton Foundation
- Come up with internal proposal to present and how to manage – concerned that having a discussion that was too open would not be productive

- Are likely going to continue current program for another year; refined timeline TBD

Discussion:

- Should we separate this to refining current rules and split conversation to revision (off-leash permits and dog park)
- A year may be too optimistic – we have passionate members in town (dog-lovers/folks afraid of dogs) and will have a lively discussion
- There's a perception there's "no off-leash program" in town – there are "off-leash parks" (which is untrue)

Recreation Budget:

- Supplemental budget was approved a few weeks ago
- Brandon presented FY24 budget to Select Board; it is based on revised FY23 budget
- Plan: we will be in the general fund for the next FY, and try to establish either a revolving or enterprise fund at Spring 2023 Town Meeting (April)
  - Will present (and hopefully have approved) the FY24 budget at April Town Meeting
  - We will establish the fund but operate out of general fund
  - Idea is to operate out of operating or enterprise fund in FY25

CPC Projects:

- Replacement of PQ Basketball Court
- Design and Engineering for Underwood
- Construction Funding for Grove Street – baseball field and basketball court (Phase I approved during last cycle)

Project Ratings (from Activitas) and looking ahead

- Will need maintenance at Underwood soon
- Chenery – when modulars are removed, tennis courts will need to be addressed
- Let's add all other assets (school, existing and in good shape) to the spreadsheet too for a full list

Upcoming discussion items:

- Underwood pool and camp fees
- Events
- Winter Programs
- Spring and Summer Programs
- Summer camp expansion and growth
- Youth programming
- Age friendly impact committee
- Schedule March (and April?) meetings

**Next meetings**

January 9<sup>th</sup>: 5:30pm on Zoom

January 23<sup>rd</sup>: 5:30pm on Zoom

February 6<sup>th</sup>: 5:30pm on Zoom

Adjourn 6:43pm