

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

Recreation Commission Meeting

7/13/2021

Zoom Meeting

DATE: August 13, 2021

TIME: 8:20 AM

Commission Attendees:

- Officers: Cortney Eldridge (chair), Paul Cowing (vice chair), Anthony Ferrante (secretary)
- David Kane (liaison to Community Preservation Committee (CPC))
- Members: Theresa O'Connor, Melissa Hart

Town Attendees: Jon Marshall (Assistant Town Administrator), Brandon Fitts (Assistant Recreation Director)

Guest: Jonathan Charwick (Activitas)

7:06 pm call to order

Tennis court Update: Jon

- Now moving forward.
- Reached out to Winn Brook abutters and email list from previous two tennis court meetings. Activitas is creating a permanent solution for an AED.

Jonathan Charwick:

- Showed position of courts encroach 45 feet into the lawn between the courts and Joey's Park. The design maintains 52 feet separation. This will be accomplished by cutting into the existing court. The goal is to minimize the impact of the additional court on the park.
- Existing fence opening needs to move toward Joey's Park a bit. The new access will be accessible and will not require removal of existing vegetation.
- No additional access to new court – two existing gates will remain.
- Doing design and engineering now. Out to bid July 26. Start construction early September. Complete by October 15. Could do final striping if weather causes delays.
- Currently lined for Tennis, UA and Pickleball.

Discussion:

Attendees: Ellen Schreiber, Brett B., and Heather Barr all addressed the Commission.

How should the new court be lined?

- Consensus among citizen attendees is that the UA and Pickleball lines is a distraction. The Commission recommends that the new court be lined for tennis only and that future relining will convert all Winn Brook courts to tennis only.
- Brandon and Jon confirmed that it does not appear that the Winn Brook courts are used by the pickle ball players. They mainly play at Town Field.

How can distractions through the fence be mitigated? This has become a concern since the tennis team started using Winn Brook.

- There are limited funds. We could consider some landscaping. Jonathan Charwick suggested we consider showing landscaping as a bid alternate. Potential options include hedge-row arborvitae or a wind screen.

Skate park discussion

(Guests: Seetha Burtner, Joe Michaud)

Jon Marshall indicated that he has received some questions regarding skate parks in Belmont. About a year ago he was approached by middle school teacher about possibility of a skate park since there was interest among the student body. Seetha Burtner has begun leading this effort. She was advised to document the demand and then work with the Rec Commission and other Town bodies to identify potential spaces.

Seetha gave the first presentation. Joe Michaud followed. Their goal was to gain the Commission's support for the idea and try to partner to find space.

Commission discussion

- David: How interchangeable for the different wheeled sports? JM – Fair amount of overlap.
- How much size required? SB – Wide variety of sizes. 3,000 sq ft is a usable size.
- Paul: Asked about required upkeep? What is needed to keep it safe and keep costs reasonable? The structures are generally concrete so should be fairly durable.
- Anthony: Suggested that the group look at underutilized spaces such as the Hittinger substation.
- Jon Marshal: Getting a group together from the community to come up with outside the box ideas is a good idea. Bring need to community first then try to figure out what spaces are available.
- Cortney: Supports the idea. Skate parks don't need to be a certain shape so can fit in a variety of spaces. Do you they have hopeful timeline? SB – Would like to partner with commission for guidance to continue exploring.
- Melissa: Supports the idea of a skate park.
- Theresa: The need is real. Where do kids go now? Joe Michaud: Goes most often to Lexington. Key features include edges on a straight path, half pipe or bowl, lines to have flow around the park. Build as you go not a great option. Seetha – Has driven all over MA with son. Lexington, Concord Middle School, Newburyport. Alston-Brighton pump track, Arlington, Boston.
- Matt O'Neal in chat for Alston-Brighton pump track.
- Tim Bucciarelli – Loves Lynch Family Park. ~40,000 sq. ft. Lexington is great model since it is on smaller size. Belmont probably needs something a bit bigger. Have we been in touch with other surrounding towns? Could we find a space that borders another town that might want to coordinate? Royal Rd. had an unofficial place where kids went but it was shut down. Is there any possibility at incinerator?
- Eli and Randy Bak: Can fit features in many places. If you don't create a place where it is allowed, they are going to go any place they can find. Royal Road dirt jumps were really successful. Would be a good spot but probably a wetland.

Seetha wants to remain in touch with Commission on a regular basis.

Jon Marshall: Select Board also wants to participate.

Review and approve minutes from 6/10/2021

Approved unanimously.

Notes.

Would like to move meetings to Mondays starting September since that is the night Town Hall is open late. 5:30 is OK for most.

First outdoor movie night coming up Thursday weather permitting.

Opportunity for Recreation to take over Community Education. Got space commitment to use space in the schools.

David: Add use of CPC administrative funds by Rec Commission to next agenda.

Meeting adjourned 8:43pm.