

## Recreation Commission Meeting

12/18/19

Beech Street Center

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: November 2, 2021

TIME: 9:25 AM

Commission Attendees: Anthony Ferrante, Marsha Semuels, Cortney Eldridge, David Kane, Mary Bradley, Anne Helgen

Town Attendees: Jon Marshall, Chris Costello

Guest: Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Control

### **Suzanne at Animal Control: Update on Off Leash Program**

- Suzanne has met with dog owners who have requested new permits to give them an orientation of the new program
- She will meet with those were issued permits prior to her joining
- Park signage is still being developed; Jon will present updates to the committee during January 2020 meeting
- The off-leash program started as a “goose buster” program and has been successful
- Currently there are 4 fields you can take your dog off-leash to
- The Town is currently clarifying the rules so the interpretation is more consistent among owners
- Still struggling with enforcement for dogs/owners not in the program
- Suzanne has done marketing and education at Town Day, Meet Belmont, and a video on the Belmont Recreation FB page
- Next year, hope to have joint meetings with board of health and recreation commission to discuss program

### **Modular Space (currently used for temporary PD)**

Discussion on possible recreation use for modulars police department is currently using

- The PD is currently using (renting) modulars at the public works space (on C street)
- They’ve been rented for the police department but the Town may be able to purchase them for (recreation) use once the PD is finished with them (e.g., for after school programs)
- Police Department is using them until December 2020
- There may be opportunities to collaborate with Community Education for using the space
- Other potential space to consider
  - The Belmont Light building will eventually be decommissioned
  - The McLean building that has recently been fortified
- Put on the agenda for March to discuss potential opportunities

### **Chenery Kick Wall**

- Anthony to invite the girls to our February meeting to host a public meeting on the proposed kick wall at Chenery Middle School.

### **Vision 21 Implementation Committee, Refresh Master Plan**

- Our current 10-year plan expires 2020
- The Select Board will be appointing new committee members
- The purpose is to identify and determine the vision of the town (e.g., recreation, open space, working with conservation)

- Currently seeking a liaison for the Recreation Commission to the Master Plan Refresh Committee
- Anthony nominated Marsha
  - Unanimous approval and agreement

### **Field and Courts Discussion**

- Jon is helping John Phelan do some analysis on field space and support design plan
- Have met with tennis, baseball (~500 participants), soccer (~1500), lacrosse (~200)
- John P would like it to be community discussion
- Potential impacts of adding tennis courts to BMHS space
  - If tennis is added, baseball may be removed
  - If the 90 foot diamond at the HS is removed, must stack the team and use the Town Field diamond
  - This bumps youth baseball out of Town Field space
  - Could move this team to Winn Brook or PQ
- How many people use tennis?
  - This is not well-measurable
  - We rent space at BB&N and Belmont Hill
  - PQ, Grove, and Winn Brook each have 4 courts
    - HS needs to have for tournaments
    - Could possibly add 1 at Winn Brook
    - In order for this to be feasible, there must be an underpass
    - 2000 ft walk to Winn Brook vs 500 ft walk to HS
- The Town is to continue evaluating what is least detrimental to the Town, residents, and sports programs in helping craft possible solutions

### **Town Field CPC Project**

Cortney gave an update and overview on the CPC Town Field project and asked for the Recreation Commission's support.

Motion: The Recreation Commission supports the Town Field Playground Restoration Project. The project improves recreation opportunities in the community. The current Town Field Playground has outlived its current useful life and we support its replacement. Abstain: Cortney (project sponsor).

Approve: All others.

### **Other Recreation Department Business**

- Meeting minutes from November approved; Anne abstained
- Add kickwall discussion/public meeting to February meeting
- Add discussion of modular space for recreation use to March meeting
- Next meeting: January 15, 2020. Location TBD. Cortney absent.
- Following meeting: February 5, 2020. Location TBD. Marsha absent.

Meeting adjourned.