

DATE: December 21, 2021
TIME: 10:30 AM

**Recreation Commission Meeting
11/15/2021
Zoom Meeting**

Commission Attendees: Officers: Cortney Eldridge (Chair) Paul Cowing (Vice Chair) David Kane (liaison to Community Preservation Committee (CPC)) Members: Theresa O'Connor (secretary) Anne Helgen, David Lind, Melissa Hart, Anthony Ferrante, Steven Colello

Absent: None

Town Attendees: Brandon Fitts, Jay Marcotte (DPW)

Meeting called to order 5:33pm

Minutes Discussion: 11/12/2019

Members could not remember who spoke in support of the Tennis courts remaining at the High School.

Action: MOTION: Dave Kane: Moved to approve minutes for 11/12/2019 as amended. Anthony: Second

Only members voting that were on the commission on 11/12/2019. Unanimous 3-0 (Yay David Kane, Cortney Eldridge, Anthony Ferrante)

Participant: Tomi Olsen - Had question on minute and the process on how to dispute minutes. Cortney: Minutes are public record and inquiries should be directed to Town Clerk.

Meeting for November 15th:

1.20th Century Proposal for use of Winn Brook: Presented to Commission: Matt and Ryan (last names unsure) from 20th Century Studios presented proposal to use Winn Brook outdoor field space for staging area as they film "Defending Jacob" (filmed on Ivy Road)- in early December. Brandon sent attached document before meeting with specifics*- see bottom also.

Matt and Ryan went over and assured Commission that everyone must be vaccinated and tested and will use all COVID protocols, masking, PPE, etc. and whatever else may be protocols at time.

Question (Ann): What if it is wet/any damage is incurred?

Answer: They will leave it better than they found it.

Question (Theresa or Ann?): Would any programs that might want to be involved in the project be able to (for example, Belmont High media groups).

Answer: They cannot have a group come to set but they said they would be more than happy to perform outreach for any program and be helpful in that way.

Action: Motion by Cortney to approve:

To support 20th Century Studios to empower the recreation director to permit use of Winn Brook Fields in early December, 2021.

Seconded by commission member, Dave.

All commission member voted yes, unanimous.

2. Garbage: Jay Marcotte, representing, the Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding trash at parks.

Discussion ensued regarding how to manage and finance trash pick-up from April to Thanksgiving which is timeframe designated when there is heavy youth sport use.

Proposal that there is any extra pickup of trash on weekend bay DPW and Jay strongly suggested using Saturday later in day as Sunday will mean time and a half cost.

One proposed solution was to increase fee charged to all youth sports programs as a fee per head (per child registered in all programs). Proposed fee would be \$5.00. Reminder that fee already is being incurred per child for use of fields by recreation (as rental fee). Some concern voiced over fact that the youth sports groups are being targeted to fund this even though they do not seem to be the major culprit in the overflowing garbage bins.

Cortney asked that Commission think of a possible proposal for next meeting to deal with the garbage problem at parks.

Anne did ask pointedly what the real cost would translate per person and Brandon said it would be \$10-\$16K annually which would be about \$10.00 per head for youth sports.

Action: Tabled for discussion at next meeting.

3. Town Field and Payson Park Projects -

TOWN FIELD: Cortney presented and updated Town Field (and gave overview of history of project).

Overview:

Replace Court

Replace Tot Lot

Water Fountain

Addition of other amenities.

During COVID, bids went up so now more expensive. 3 letters of support needed, community and select board is all in favor.

Note (Elizabeth Dion): Town Field was pushed back because some original money for this project was granted to the Police Station project.

Also, Lisa Pargoli (public) asked about possibility of fenced-in dog park at Town Field. Asked to come to meetings about dogs at parks for this.

Action: Motion by Dave to approve: The Recreation Commission supports the Town Field Playground and Courts Project and appropriation of funds requested.

Seconded by commission member, Anthony.

All commission members present voted yes, except Cortney who abstained.

PAYSON PARK: Project was discussed. Sue Cray and Linda Oates are co-chairs (working with Anthony and Dave) Sue Cray spoke. No presentation but will prepare one for future meeting (was presented at CPC rendering for Activitas)

a. Safety is biggest concern and drives need most. All proposals are based on safety.

b. Examples of needs: replace rusty and unsafe playground equipment, repair crumbling retaining wall and stairway, possible asphalt pathways.

c. Comments from Tomi: Would like input on re-designing of park. Anthony mentioned has been presented at public meeting.

d. Mary Bradley and Tomi both expressed discontent with lack of transparency and overall communication regarding projects such as this.

Action: Sue Croy will come back either Dec. 6 or Jan. 10. CPC meeting is Dec. 8 (?) so Sue Cray will time return based on that.

4. Higginbottom Pool:

Brandon - Question on if we should open pool for Public Swim as soon as possible. Even if for the short term we may lose money until we can get programing at the pool to subsidize Open public swim.

Anthony in favor of opening the pool ASAP.

Discussion on the obstacles to opening the pool right away. How do we track and monitor the number of patrons? What should the fees be? Time frame for when the pool is open.

Brandon - Gave the commission a breakdown of what he thinks the fees should be based on Break-even Point \$8.00

Cortney Suggested setting fees temporarily until the Commission can better understand the financial impact. Hopefully at our next meeting 12/6/21

Participant Bob Singler: \$8.00 not unreasonable fee for a two-hour session.

Action: Motion: Cortney Eldridge

Recommend \$8.00 fee per person, per session for Higginbottom Pool public swim beginning Today and to be revisited on 12/6 at the next recreation Commission meeting

Anthony Ferrante : Second

Motion approved 8-0 (Melissa did not vote she had to leave the meeting early

5. Rink Update: there is open, public skating.

6. Recreation Director:

Steven Colello asked if there would be a replacement for Jon Marshall. Brandon stated that Patrice Garvin will be looking to hire a new Assistant Town Administrator/Finance Director. There is no plan to directly replace Jon's position and that Brandon and Patrice will meet to discuss in the future. Brandon is currently the Acting Recreation Director.

Cortney Moves to adjourn; David Lind second

Meeting adjourned 7:50pm

**20th Century proposal specifics*

20th Century Studios
Belmont Filming Request

Prep Work - 7am to 7pm, Tues 11/30 - Fri 12/3:

- Prep crews at 47 Statler Road from approx. 7am - 7pm each day.
- Parking for 2 to 4 work trucks from 7am - 7pm.
- Park prep crew personal vehicles in Statler Neighborhood. Approx. 5-20 vehicles per day.
- 1 to 2 Police Officers per day, 7am-7pm.

Filming Date - Mon 12/6, 7am-11pm:

- Monday 12/6 filming will be approx. 7am-11pm.
- "Local/Resident Traffic Only" during filming hours. We can provide proper signage.
- "No Parking/Film Vehicles Only" signs to begin at 12AM on 12/6.
- Bathroom Trailers, industrial heater, and large crew catering tent for breakfast & lunch on the field behind Winn Brook Elementary School.
- Parking on Sherman Street for 3-yard Dumpsters & Catering Vehicles
- 3 to 4 Police detail officers report to 47 Statler Road at 7am.
1 Officer to report to Sherman St by the field at Winn Brook.
- Request for 120 spots at the Claflin Street Lot for crew personal vehicles.

Strike Work - 7am to 7pm Tues 12/7 - Weds 12/8:

- Prep crews at 47 Statler Road. from approx. 7am - 5pm each day.
- Parking for 2 to 4 work trucks from 7am - 7pm.
- Park prep crew personal vehicles in Statler Neighborhood. Approx. 5-20 vehicles per day.