

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

**Recreation Commission Meeting**

10/14/2020  
Zoom Meeting

DATE: November 20, 2020  
TIME: 8:20 AM

**Commission Attendees:**

- Officers: Anthony Ferrante (chair), David Kane (liaison to CPC), Marsha Semuels (vice chair), Cortney Eldridge (secretary)
- Members: Anne Helgen, Melissa Hart, Paul Cowing, Theresa O'Connor, Mary Bradley

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

5:33 pm call to order

**Intro of New Members**

Paul Cowing

**Review and approve minutes from 9/8/20**

Approve: Anthony, Marsha, Melissa, Cortney, David, Anne, Theresa

Abstain: Paul

**Administrative**

- The Town now owns the modular units
- Orientation manual for new folks – Brandon is working on this and hopes to have it done by November meeting

**Tennis Reservations**

- Pilot program is up and running
- September 1 through October 14 -- \$1,000 of reservations (\$5.00/hour); 104 hours at Winn Brook; 105 hours at Grove Street; six (6) hours at PQ
- Some complaints about tennis instructors monopolizing the courts but otherwise the pilot is going well
- Biggest challenge now is enforcement
- Discussed permitting fee(s) for any coaches; can set where coaching is taking place (e.g., at PQ, where there's less demand); to revisit this in the winter/after the fall
- Currently, only residents are allowed to reserve (but non-residents also use the courts); future opportunities for non-residents to reserve (at a higher rate)

**Budget Timeline**

- Departments are preparing budgets; Recreation Department is reviewing last year's data and making adjustments
- Need to prepare two budgets – one with override passing and one with it failing
- Currently working on budget with a successful override
- This year, our budget is reduced (with pool closed and COVID cuts); are planning on opening the pool in the budget for next year
- High school construction means Recreation Department lost space (and program opportunities; we moved gym programs to elementary schools where possible and lost Higginbottom Pool)
- Once high school and middle school opens (when construction is complete), there will also be opportunities at the elementary school(s) to continue/offer programming

- Still under discussion to move Recreation Department budget to Enterprise Fund

#### **CPA Requests**

- Have a meeting tonight with CPA
- Jon Marshall put a request in for tennis court expansion at Winn Brook (to five or six courts) -- \$240K request; two might fit but need to see what survey returns
- Initial request for Payson Park – Linda Oats
- Open space for community path project

#### **Fall/Winter Programs**

- Brandon: 315 people registered for programs in September -- \$34K in revenue
- In October, 44 registrations, \$11K in revenue
- Have sold out just about everything we've offered so far
- Dolphin Swim Team starting on Sunday (at Watertown Boys and Girls Club); have nearly 50 swimmers
- November 9<sup>th</sup> – fall 2<sup>nd</sup> session
- January 18<sup>th</sup> – start winter session
- Rented fishing poles from Mass Wildlife; have been running fishing programs with Medford Recreation
- Halloween House Decorating contest! Submissions due 10/26 by noon
- Health Department is offering guidance around Trick or Treating/Halloween

#### **Viglirolo Skating Rink Update**

- Ice is getting laid right now
- Hoping to open mid-November
- Working through COVID plan
- Schedules are in place; working through rest
- No update on new rink/RFP

#### **Follow-ups from previous meetings:**

- Master Plan Refresh Committee: was put on hold due to COVID; will likely be put on hold till April with a (hopefully) positive override vote

#### **Ongoing business:**

- Next meetings, all at 5:30 pm:
  - November 18<sup>th</sup>
  - December 9<sup>th</sup>

Meeting adjourned 6:53 pm.