

Recreation Commission Meeting

10/24/22

Zoom

DATE: November 15, 2022

TIME: 10:34 AM

Commission Attendees: Dave Kane, Dave Lind, Cortney Eldridge, Anthony Ferrante, Paul Cowing, Theresa O'Connor, Steven Colello, Joshua Gould

Town Attendees: Brandon Fitts, Jay Marcotte, Jennifer Hewitt, Suzanne Trasavage

Call to order 5:32pm

Town Field Revision:

Pickleball Revision draft: Jay and Brandon

- Additional cost is roughly \$4K (but change order might change the cost a little); there is reduction in fencing and extra asphalt
- Pickleball wants the corners 90 degrees (instead of flat corners like we have with tennis courts)
- Jay disagrees with additional permanent nets (Courts 3 and 4); pickleball courts can be multi use and if we have permanent nets, we reduce the flexibility of use

Discussion

- Agree not to install extra permanent nets
- Even with the extra cost, it's below the allocated cost from the Community Preservation Committee (CPC)/Town Meeting
- Raised concern with setting a precedent for coming in with last minute changes post-approval
- Jay noted there's a change order with virtually all projects due to the nature of construction

Motion: Take the three revisions separately:

Square the three corners of the pickleball courts to right angles:

Moved: Cortney, Second: Anthony

Approve: Cortney, David Lind, Anthony, Joshua, Steve Colello, Theresa, David Kane, Paul

Moving the entrance and adjusting the path

Moved: Cortney, Second: David

Approve: Cortney, David Lind, Anthony, Joshua, Steve Colello, Theresa, David Kane, Paul

Two additional permanent courts: Deny the request for one and/or two additional permanent pickleball nets

Moved: Cortney, Second: Anthony

Approve: Cortney, David Lind, Anthony, Joshua, Steve Colello, David Kane, Paul

Abstain: Theresa

Minutes from last month:

No comments, suggestions, changes

In favor: Cortney, David Lind, Theresa, David Kane, Steve Colello, Anthony, Paul

Abstain: Joshua

Introduction to new members!

- Joshua Gould, Steve Warner
- Joshua; Belmont resident for eight years, two kids at Chenery School (5th and 8th grades)

- Steve wasn't able to attend today
- Intro to the other Commission members: Paul (Chair; Year 4); Cortney (Secretary; six years?); Anthony (10 years; various roles in the past – current liaison of the Rink Building Committee); David Lind (Vice Chair; 2nd year on Commission); David Kane (13 years; has had various roles; currently CPC liaison, two kids in college); Theresa (3rd year on the Commission)

Budget Conversations:

Jennifer Hewitt: new Assistant Town Administrator/Finance Director

- Recreation (budget) is transitioning over; COVID-19 has affected timeline of programming and revenue; as we were building FY23 budget (current budget), we used conservative numbers and needed supplemental revenue
- Discussion between Brandon and Jennifer regarding enterprise or revolving fund; this needs to go through bylaw committee and warrant committee
- Budgets are due to FY24 by Friday; Patrice will issue her budget in February and wrap it up in March/April
- We use historic budget to determine future budget; it's better to have a full year of FY22 actuals (and FY23) to have a good solid budget
- There's currently a Town subsidy that supports Town staff; hope is this will eventually be eliminated

Age Friendly Action Committee:

- Interdepartmental committee focusing on senior access in town; Theresa was our liaison but the times did not work for her schedule
- Paul can cover for a little while and then see if we can rotate, join every other meeting, or request a shift in time every so often
- Flexibility wise, nearly we're all working professionals so Thursdays at 11am makes it difficult

CPC Projects: September 2022 submissions:

Grove Street:

- Roughly \$1.3M for reconstruction of baseball fields and basketball court; Activitas is working on the numbers
- Will be moving forward with phase II construction proposal for current CPC cycle

Underwood Park:

- Going through phase I public process; hopes to do construction documents for future fiscal year
- No current citizen spearheading this (yet)

PQ Basketball Court: Looking to replace basketball court in kind; it was not done with the previous park renovation

Potential Skate Park:

- Push for a skate park in town
- Question always comes up "where?"
- Wanted to do a design and feasibility study to see where in town this might fit, but was met with resistance at the CPC meeting
- CPC may not be able to fund all the projects (due to budgeting constraints)

- Discuss Underwood (playground) usage – Belmont Cooperative Nursery uses it, Wellington was using it

Dog Conversation Outline and Plan:

Suzanne Trasavage: Animal Control Officer (still on maternity leave but called in)

- Need to meet with Suzanne and Board of Health – policy bylaw names both departments
- From there, two public forums (more if needed) with clear agenda for topics and input
- Need to create a roadmap for discussions – suggest having them in winter months (to put in place for warmer weather)
- Current fields that allow dogs: Town Field, PQ Park, Grove Street, Winn Brook
- The old program has only 200 dog tags available but there are many more dogs in town than that
- Theresa offering to be a part of the discussion
- Two public forums (Board of Health and Recreation Commission)
- Suggest Adam Dash, (Select Board Liaison) is in the loop on this
- Brandon will schedule some internal town meetings and then start the public meeting process

Public Comment

George Zhygalko – dog discussion – glad to hear we're having open meetings/conversations

Next meetings

November 14th 5:30pm on Zoom

December 12th 5:30pm on Zoom

Adjourn 7:01pm