



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

# **Town of Southwick**

## **Park and Recreation Commission**

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**Town Website: [www.southwickma.org](http://www.southwickma.org)**

### **Park and Recreation Meeting Minutes**

**October 11, 2023**

**6:30 pm**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**Attendance:** Jeanne Reed-Waldron, John Whalley, David DeiDolori, Rick Harriman, Cindy Sullivan and Cara Cartello

**Absent:** Mike Sheil

**Guests:** Amy Martha, Sarah Leavy, Mason Garcia, Andy Reardon, Joshua Santos, Steven Renzullo

The meeting was opened by Commissioner Jeanne Reed-Waldron at 6:30 pm. The next meeting of the Park and Recreation will be November 15, 2023.

#### **Public Comment**

Andy Reardon and Mason Garcia from Troop 114 would like to build a GaGa Ball recreational play area. It is similar to dodgeball. Mason said the area is about 24' x 24' and 3' off the ground. It will be filled with sand. The cost is approximately \$3,500, possibly more with sand or wood chips. It is a permanent structure.

Sarah Leavy is proposing a dog park in Southwick. She said the National P&R Association study stated that 9 of 10 people are in favor of dog parks. She does not have a location in mind but would be open to ideas. She is willing to fundraise and apply for grants. One acre would be ideal preferably with a large and small dog section and a restroom for adults. She would recommend a Double gate entrance for emergency and ADA access. John said he has land near Napa and the Southwick Inn that may be a good area for the dog park. Sarah will look at the location.

#### **Review Minutes and Bills**

Minutes & bills were approved.

#### **Buildings & Grounds Update**

Maintenance is working on getting more dirt for the softball field. The Pavilion light bill has been high since the lights are available for use 24/7. We have requested maintenance shut off the power to the light switch. They will turn them on as needed. Maintenance will be getting a quote on the water heater repairs. Review restroom locks quote.

### **Whalley Park**

Josh and Steve with CT Titans Baseball Organization would like to use the fields for their 8U through 13U teams for the spring, summer, fall of 2024. They have five teams. CT Titans teams would like to negotiate a bulk rate. They are willing to help with field maintenance. Would like use of the 70', 90' and softball with preferential access. They will hold eight practices a week. Josh is also willing to help out with opening and closing the fields for the season.

The Recreation Center parked cars at Whalley Park for Rugged Maniac. They agreed to give P&R 10%.

Rick said the grass clippings dumped near the first base line still has not been addressed. The speedy dry at the park is not the correct one. It needs to be for recreation. The gates at the softball field need to be realigned. The ground settled and they are uneven. The gates were put on wrong. The backstop fence needs to be secured, its curling. We will get a quote from the fence company.

### **Rail Trail**

The Friends of the Rail Trail had to cancel the trail counts due to the rain. FOSRT is looking for new members. Anyone interested should contact Peter or Christy.

### **Fireworks Fund**

Jeanne would like to implement a fireworks fund into the P&R budget. David motion to request \$14,000 Firework Budget. Rick seconded and the motion was approved. Joe Deedy said the Southwick Civic Fund will organize the event.

### **Old Town Beach**

No update

### **Old Business**

Cindy updated that things are moving forward with the spray park. They will be ordering components over the next few weeks. Crestview will do the work. Pickleball has been approved by CPC.

### **New Business**

No new business

### **Meeting called to a close**

8:32 pm David DeiDolori motioned to adjourn the meeting; Rick Harriman seconded the motion. The meeting was called to a close.

Jeanne Reed-Waldron\_\_\_\_\_

John Whalley\_\_\_\_\_

David DeiDolori\_\_\_\_\_

Mike Sheil\_\_\_\_\_

Rick Harriman\_\_\_\_\_