



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Southwick

Park and Recreation Commission

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Park and Recreation Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting

July 22, 2020

6:30 pm

Remote Participation

Members in Attendance: Jeanne Reed-Waldron, John Whalley, David DeiDolori, Mike Sheil, Mike Massarelli and Cara Cartello

The meeting was opened by Commissioner Jeanne Reed-Waldron at 6:30 pm. The next meeting of the Park and Recreation will be August 26, 2020 at 6:30pm.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Review Minutes and Bills

Bills were reviewed and approved. Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Whalley Park

Joe Hough would like to maintain the softball field in exchange for occasional field use. He will also make a donation to Park & Rec. Mike Massarelli said Joe turns the fields and maintains the entire field in exchange for a backup field for practice. Mike Sheil would like him to send in the certificate of insurance. Mike Massarelli motioned to approve Joe Hough softball field use in exchange for field maintenance; John Whalley seconded and the motion was approved. Carol Kwasney is asking to use Whalley Park to hold Tai Chi on Wednesday's from 4-5pm July 29 through November 25, 2020. It is an over 60 group of 5, including the instructor. The instructor, Ellie D'Allesandro is certified and works at Dhira Yoga, The Y, and local Senior Centers. They would prefer to use the pavilion but any grass area would be fine on nice days. David said as long as it doesn't interfere with any other park reservations it should be fine. John Whalley motioned to approve Carol Kwasney's request for Tai Chi on Wednesdays from July 29-November 25, 2020; David DeiDolori seconded and the motion was approved. Susan Kochanski would like to use the pavilion for a free Cultural Council ukulele workshop. The workshop was originally scheduled to be held at the library prior to Covid-19. The workshop will be during the week with approximately 20-30 people. She does not have the exact date yet. She wanted to make sure she had a space to hold the workshop before they set up a date. Peter DeMello with the Bolts would like to rent the soccer field from July-November. Peter is looking for an agreement of compensation should the park be closed due to Triple E or Covid-19. The board agreed if fields are closed they will receive compensation on their next season field rental. Jeanne and Mike Massarelli attended Finance Committee meeting to request \$4,300 in the various programs account be used toward a brush mower for Whalley Park. The finance committee denied the request and advised P&R to either have DPW do it or rent one.

Rail Trail

A resident on Berkshire Ave would like to purchase a memory bench on the rail trail. She would like to hire her own contractors. The benches must be the same as the current benches on the trail. The contractors hired by the town are familiar with the bench & concrete specifications. John Whalley motioned to use the town contractors in effort to stay consistent with the existing benches; Mike Sheil seconded and the motion was approved.

Beach

If the beach opens at this time it can only run at 25% capacity. The beach would have to be inspected, water tested, post jobs, interview, stock the beach and certify lifeguards. By the time this is all complete it will be mid August. It is not worth opening the beach for a few weeks. John Whalley motioned keep the beach closed due to time constraints; Mike Massarelli seconded and the motion was approved.

New Business

P&R has to vote on P&R CPC replacement for John Whalley. John was elected for CPC on town vote. Mike Sheil can't do this year but would be willing to join next year. John Whalley motioned Jeanne Reed-Waldron to be the P&R representative on CPC; Mike Sheil seconded and the motion was approved. Mike Sheil inquired about the trash at Whalley Park. The town maintenance does not have anyone who will empty the trash at the park. They put signs up and turned trash barrel inserts upside down but people are still leaving their trash at the park. P&R would like to see if the Whalley Park maintenance employees can put the trash barrels up and empty them until maintenance finds someone to empty the trash.

Meeting called to a close

7:16 pm John Whalley motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mike Massarelli seconded the motion. The meeting was called to a close.

Submitted by:_____