



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Southwick

Park and Recreation Commission

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Park and Recreation Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2021

6:30 pm

Remote Participation

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

Guests: Peter DeMello

The meeting was opened by Commissioner Jeanne Reed-Waldron at 6:30 pm. The next meeting of the Park and Recreation is to be determined.

Public Comment

Peter DeMello, the Bolts West Soccer Administrative Coordinator, is requesting the lit soccer field be overseeded and shut down May 1 through September. The field conditions are not ideal due to injury risk and cannot be used to play premier games. He will use the lit field until April 30, 2021 for practices. He suggests locking up the goals and blocking off the area to keep people off. There are a lot of tufts of grass. The ball bounces and hops when it hits the tufts. He thinks the field needs to be rolled to eliminate the tufts. Jeanne mentioned the holes need to be filled in also. Jeanne discussed rolling the fields with a landscaper. They said rolling the field may not help. Mike Sheil asked if the teams will lock and unlock the goals in effort to keep people off the new grass. One set of goals can be put away. A set of large and small goals can be left out. Discussion about reduced fee since the lit soccer field will not be used for May and June. John said P&R should purchase an over seeder and maintenance can over seed as needed.

Review Minutes and Bills

Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Whalley Park

There was further discussion about over seeding the lit soccer field. John said a split seeder is the only one to work this time of year. We could rent one at this time. The sprinkler heads will need to be flagged. John will ask Eric. We need a solution for watering areas as needed. We need someone to manage the irrigation system. John said he knows how to use it. There are areas that get over water and under watered depending on the weather and we need more control over that since these fields are rented. We will need to block off the field to keep people off. Discuss irrigation flow sensor to prevent the well pump from overheating and bursting. Discuss application for maintenance employee. There is a gate behind the maintenance building that could be placed at the entrance of the park to keep people from entering the park when it snows. John said he is not interested in a gate. It will be an eye sore the rest of the year when not used. People will continue

to drive around the gate on the grass as they do the jersey barriers. John suggests putting one jersey barrier and a sign in the middle of the road this way people who plan on driving around and ignoring the sign will not continue to damage the lawn. Mike Sheil would prefer the barriers instead of the gate. Discuss parking lot light that was knocked over by a large truck backing out of a parking spot. The restrooms were vandalized the weekend of April 10, 21. Damage was done to the ceilings, toilet paper dispensers, toilet paper, light fixtures, trash barrels and the bathroom was flooded. Jeanne suggested attaching a lockbox with a key to the side of the garage. John said it is an overreaction to take action for minimal incidents.

Rail Trail

The Board of Health will advise if porta pottys can be put out due to covid. Tyler will start maintaining the trail at the beginning of May. The friends of the rail trail suggested expanding the parking area at Miller Road. They are suggesting expand the gravel parking area and pave a path to the trail. The quote is \$3,500. David doesn't think it's a worthwhile investment and there isn't a budget at this time to fund this. The FOSRT suggested creating a small parking area off Point Grove Road near the tunnel on the town property. The FOSRT would like to either put up signs or stencil on the concrete to advise people to alert others using the trail when passing. The board suggests putting it on the concrete. Jeanne suggested withdrawing the request for the crosswalk system at Depot Street. The Finance committee suggested contacting the safety officer for input. Sgt. Bannish suggested contacting DPW for input. Rand Brown suggested the request be evaluated by a professional to ensure the town is providing proper protections and measures at this intersection. He said there is also plans to modify the intersection into a traditional "T" intersection and perhaps it can be included in the project. John Whalley motioned to hold off on the Depot Street Crosswalk System; David DeiDolori seconded and the motion was approved.

Town Beach

Bill Jenkins would like to place his dock on the right away at the town beach as he has in the past. John Whalley motioned to approve Bill Jenkins dock on the Town beach right away; Mike Massarelli seconded and the motion was approved

New Business

There was no new business.

Meeting called to a close

8:19 pm Mike Massarelli motioned to adjourn the meeting; John Whalley seconded the motion. The meeting was called to a close.

Submitted by:_____