

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2011

Present: Commissioners- Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Dick Williamson, Nancy McShea-P&R Director

Minutes from the September 19, 2011 meeting were approved with corrections.

Follow-up to Board of Selectmen meeting on September 27, 2011 – Commissioners discussed the meeting and felt there was an open discussion about getting the Melone property on the Selectmen's goals for FY12.

Paul stated he will call Bill Seymour, from Gale, to discuss the updated field study. Paul will invite him to the next Commission meeting to discuss what the Commissioners want covered in the update. Paul hopes to have the survey done by January.

Paul stated the impression he got from the Selectmen was that Davis was a viable option for renovation and something that should be worked on. Jim Marotta stated he felt the reality is that the Town is just not that interested in creating more field space. He felt the Selectmen were more inclined to renovate Davis and Feeley Fields.

Jim also expressed a strong concern about replacement costs for the turf fields and other recreation capital needs in town and the need to create some type of fund or account for funds put aside for replacement costs.

The Commissioners discussed the increase in the field permit fee which took effect this fall. Many of the user groups are not happy with the increase from \$20 to \$35 dollars. Nancy stated that the permit fee was increased to cover a portion of the Park and Grounds employee salary expense that was being transferred into the Field Enterprise Fund in FY12. She also stated that in actuality the increase is only \$5 dollars, since in the past the user groups were paying \$20 to the Recreation Department for the field permit and \$10 to the Friends of Park and Rec for capital fees. At this time, no money is being paid to the Friends of Park and Rec. All money is being paid to the Town of Sudbury to cover the field permit fee.

The Commissioners suggested inviting Maureen Valente to the next Commission meeting along with representatives from the youth user groups. It was thought that Maureen could explain the reasoning behind moving Parks and Grounds salary to the Field Enterprise Fund. The user groups could use this opportunity to express their concerns to Maureen. Paul offered to contact Maureen and check her availability to meet.

The Commissioners continued to discuss ways to prepare for the eventual replacement of the artificial turf fields at Cutting and the Community Field at the LSRHS.

A motion was made to create a special account for replacement of the turf fields at Cutting Field by taking five dollars (\$5) from the thirty-five dollar (\$35) field permit fee and all other revenue generated by rentals at Cutting Field.

The motion received a second and was passed 4-0.

CPC- Dick Williamson informed the Commissioners that the CPC was reviewing the list of proposals in order to move forward and prepare for the town warrant. He mentioned he thought the biggest discussion would be on the purchase of the Pantry Brook Farm property. He stated that there would be a walking tour of the property on Friday of this week for anyone interested in seeing the property.

Dick also updated the Commission on the BOS meeting which discussed the Rail Trail and if funds from the Friends of the Rail Trail should be accepted to complete the first ½ mile. There were some concerns regarding parking at Davis, especially if field renovations take place at Davis Field.

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of holding two meetings in November, one with Maureen Valente and the user groups, and the other the monthly Commission meeting. November 7th and the 14th were suggested dates. It was decided to wait and see when Maureen was available before deciding on the meeting dates.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.