

March 13, 2017

Commission Minutes

Bobby Beagan, Dick Williamson, Mike Ensley, Jim Marotta, Mara Huston; Kayla McNamara, Aquatics, Park and Recreation Director

Guests: Heather Halsey, Melissa Rodrigues, Town Manager, Amy Skenderian, Rugby, Jeff Cole, Marc Spector, Youth Baseball

Minutes from January 18th and January 30th were reviewed and approved.

Public Comment: Heather Halsey, master gardener and resident, requested approval from the Commissioners to prune, weed, plant and make overall improvements to Heritage Park. Jim M. asked about funding and Mike Ensley said he had no problem with the request but asked that the Park and Recreation Commission get a plan for what the gardeners plan to do at Heritage Park. Ms. Halsey said she would come up with a long-term plan and send it to the Commissioners and that donations would cover any expense. Jim M. will sign the volunteer paperwork so the master gardeners can get the hours worked at Heritage Park approved.

Kayla McNamara Department Update: Kayla stated she is in the process of hiring summer camp counselors. She stated the summer registration was a bit difficult due to the new recreation software, but the company is working on fixing the issues. The Spring/Summer brochure is being mailed to residents shortly. Mark Simmons, the Youth Coordinator, has transferred to the Pool to fill the open aquatic position. He will initially be an Aquatic Supervisor, but will work towards the Aquatic Assistant Director position. Swim Team season is over and invoices have been mailed to the teams. Kayla stated she is also reviewing the field permit form and will be revising it to make it easier to understand and easier to fill out.

Melissa Rodrigues, Enterprise Fund Discussion – Melissa distributed a Field and Pool Enterprise Fund Budgets presentation. She explained how Enterprise budgets operate within the town.

Pool Enterprise Fund - Melissa stated that with the approved increase in rates last year, the Pool is doing well and is not an area of concern. Mara asked for a breakdown of the Enterprise receipts so the Commission can see what programs generate the most income. A new pump in the back room will be required at some point in the future. Melissa stated that the Town could always bond the expense and have small monthly payments to cover the capital expenses.

Field Enterprise Fund – Melissa stated the Field Enterprise Fund has been struggling for a few years. Current revenue numbers are again low. Retained earnings will need to be used again this year. The Field Enterprise Fund is responsible for half of the salaries of four full time employees and half of their benefits. Melissa explained that the revenue issues occurred due to lack of collecting all fees, no Park and Rec Director for a period during the last fiscal year, and increase in expenses without increasing the permit fee over the years. She stated the past cannot be fixed but they can try to make things better for the future.

Commissioners discussed the Field Enterprise expenses and requested that the next presentation include the revenue broken down.

Dick Williamson expressed concern that there is not a capital plan for the field. He asked where the money would come from to renovate Cutting Field. Mike Ensley asked if the Park and Recreation Commission could be included when the Town is considering new land for purchase.

It was the overall view that the Town needs more fields, in order to be able to rest the current fields. Commissioners Discussion on field quality and the inability to rest the fields because they are always in use. The drought last summer and over use makes it difficult to keep the fields in good shape.

Mike Ensley asked about the status of the Melone Property. Melissa responded that Sudbury Housing Authority was interested, but there was no set plan for the property at this time.

Melissa discussed with the Commissioners the expectation that the Field Enterprise Fund will again have to use retained earnings in order to cover FY17 expenses. The need to increase fees is apparent since the current revenue is not covering the expenses.

Kayla and Melissa discussed the possibility of a blanket permit fee or an hourly fee. Kayla stated she receives many blanket permit requests for many hours at a field by the user groups. Blanket field requests are a problem when requested times end up not being used by the user groups. Kayla stated she sees reserved fields that are often empty. These fields if not actually being used could be rented by another user.

Mike Ensley commented he did not want to overload the user groups and recreation staff by moving to an hourly fee. He stated he was not sure the extra work was worth the little bit of extra money that might be brought in to the Field Enterprise Fund.

Melissa suggested going through one season to see how a \$5.00 increase on the permit fee works instead of going with the higher increase.

Jim Marotta made a motion to accept the \$5.00 rate increase as proposed in the second table presented by the Town Manager. Motion received a second. The motion passed 5-0.

Rugby- Amy Skenderian, Lincoln, requested the new Rugby youth program be viewed as a new user group and received the same field rental pricing as other Sudbury user groups. Amy described how the rugby youth program has grown over the years and that she is looking for field space in the summer. She explained that her field request is viewed as a non-Sudbury because her address is in Lincoln. She explained that the kids on the team are from Sudbury and Lincoln. The Commission agreed that the Rugby user group should be treated like other youth groups in town since it is similar to the baseball teams where both Lincoln and Sudbury have kids on the teams.

Youth Baseball – Jeff Cole, a classmate of Matthew, requested to name one of the lower baseball fields after Matthew Bardsley. He stated that Matthew died in an ATV accident many years ago. Matthew's father was a firefighter in Sudbury, and his mother was preschool teacher in Town. He loved Sudbury and was a big baseball player, and overall fan of sports. His family and friends started a golf outing as a fundraiser for the Matthew Bardsley organization in 2004. The organization has sponsored the youth

baseball T-Ball league for years and scholarships to Sudbury residents. Mr. Cole's request is to rename the front lower Featherland baseball field the Matthew Bardsley Field at Featherland Park.

Jim Marotta made a motion to approve the request with the approval of Kayla and the Town of Sudbury. All Expenses associated with naming the Matthew Bardsley Field at Featherland Park will be the responsibility of the Matthew Bardsley organization. Motion was approved 5-0.

Outfield Fence at Haskell Field – Mark Spector, youth baseball, requested to install a permanent outfield fence on Haskell Field for the 90ft baseball diamond. He stated that youth baseball has installed a portable fence (estimated cost \$2,000) and has to be replaced often due to damage from the weather and usage. Youth Baseball installed the portable fence in the spring and took it down after fall baseball season. Marc also stated that Feeley field is the only other 90ft field with a fence.

Chris Felt stated soccer fields must be 20ft away from object, such as the fence.

Mark S. stated that youth baseball will be responsible for all the expenses associated with installing and purchasing the fence.

Bobby Beagan stated he would like to see a layout of the fence and soccer fields to see how the other fields may be impacted.

Chris stated that a permanent fence would affect any changes in soccer or lacrosse field layouts.

Mike Ensley made a motion to approve the permanent outfield fence for baseball at Haskell Field subject to the approval of the DPW Dir and Park and Recreation Director. He also stated the permanent fence must be set back 20ft from the installation of the portable fence and there is to be no loss of rectangular field space. Youth Baseball will be responsible for all expenses associated with the fence and the installation of the fence.

Mara H. and Dick W. suggested waiting to vote until the other users of the field could weigh in on the impact of the fence to their usage.

The motion received a second and was approved 3-2.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail – Bobby Beagan stated that the task force was looking for a comment from the Park and Recreation Commission, but after a brief discussion it was decided that the Commission could not talk about it due two abutters on the Commission and Dick Williamson involvement with the task force.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

