

Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

January 31 at 7:00pm

Attendees: Drew McMorrow, Amy Smack, Courtney Bittelari, Holly Mansfield

Mosquito: Sarah Hart

Meeting began at 7:10pm

Public Comments and Correspondence:

Drew has prepared an article for the Town Warrant for an Engineering Study of Spalding Field. The article is “looking to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$20,000, to be expended by the Board of Selectman, for an architectural and engineering study of Spaulding Field for the purpose of planning future recreational use by the School and the Town. The study would conduct soil cores and test pits to test issues related to drainage; architect an undersurface drainage system; assess the risk of finding hazardous materials left from prior use of the site; scope any needs for variances or other permitting issues related to new field construction; make recommendations related to field configuration, solar orientation, use, and maintenance plans; make recommendations for tree and foliage setbacks for solar coverage; recommend variations of grass, clay, or other materials; and assess the suitability of the site, or some portion thereof, for artificial turf.”

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Courtney made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 7th, 2019 meeting. Amy seconded the motion. All in favor: Yes.

Trails Committee:

Warren Spence from the Trails Committee proposed a change in the trail at Banta Davis. The trail currently has people walking on the soccer field. The Trails Committee would like to move the trail closer to the woods so people are not walking on the field. The only request is for the Recreation Commission to post a sign stating that dogs are to stay on the trail vs. the playing field.

Motion: Drew made the motion to approve the construction of the trail. Amy seconded the motion. All in favor: Yes.

Organic Maintenance:

Matthew Adams from Greenscape attended the meeting to discuss the treatment plan going forward for the playing fields in Carlisle. The main concern with the fields is grubs. The grass on many sections of the fields is brown due to the grub infestation. Currently, the town has used Nematodes which is an organic treatment for grubs. This is a very expensive treatment plan which is not the most effective treatment for grubs. Nematodes are the best organic option for grubs but have a high failure rate in the successful removal of grubs.

The best and most effective option to treat the grub issue is a chemical treatment. Matthew discussed three chemical options.

- 1) Dylox: Dylox is a liquid treatment in the “Caution” classification and is a low risk pesticide and is safe for pets. 37.3% of the chemical is used and then diluted with water. This is a curative application that tends to work well.

- 2) Acelepryn: Acelepryn is a liquid treatment in the “Warning” classification. This is a very effective treatment for grubs and will offer the best results but tends to be a more expensive option.
- 3) Merit-Lmidacloprid: Lmidacloprid is a more cost effective option for grub control but may not be as effective.

After the field is treated with one of the above chemicals, the fields would then be aerated in the spring with a double or triple slice seed.

Matt will send Holly the various labels for each chemical and Drew will follow up with the Board of Selectman, Conservation Commission and School Committee.

Programs Report:

Overall the programs offered are well received. The most popular youth programs are the classes which begin after school at 3:15pm. Classes held directly after school run Monday-Friday in the Brick Building with great attendance. During the fall of 2018, there were a few concerns with instructors not arriving on time and several behavioral issues with children. Holly would like to consider hiring a part-time staff person between the hours of 2:30-5:30pm to assist program instructors with meeting the children after school, class projects, potential behavioral concerns and pick up at the end of class. This staff person will also be certified in CPR, First Aid and Epi-pen training. All Recreation Commission members are in support of Holly hiring an additional staff person to assist with after-school programming. Holly will determine an appropriate pay rate for this position and move forward with hiring a Programs Assistant. This position will be funded through the revolving account.

Community Center Study:

Holly and Peter Best have met with the COA to determine what is needed in a future Community Center. Holly created a list of Recreation Programs which are currently in place, the locations where programs are held as well as a “wish list” of ideas to be included in the plan for a Community Center. Included in Holly’s wish list are a pool and a gymnasium. Abacus requested that we determine the true needs of these two items as they are “big ticket items” and will drive up the cost of the project.

After discussing the two projects, the Recreation Commission is interested in including an outdoor pool as a part of the Community Center. An outdoor pool could benefit the community as a social gathering area for families during the summer months, an ice rink in the winter, as well as a community location of summer swim lessons. Currently swim lessons are held at private homes in Carlisle. Linda Fantasia, BOH Director, suggested that a community pool is a safer option for the town as it can be monitored and staffed accordingly.

The Recreation Commission also discussed including a kitchen, playground, teen center, and outdoor basketball courts with lights. Holly will attach the list she created as well as a picture of the Bedford Recreation Teen Center.

Committee Liaison Reports:

Currently there are no updates on the Committee Liaison Reports.

Update on Landscape Services:

After the January 7th meeting, the Recreation Commission voted to terminate the field maintenance contract with Jared Davis after it is confirmed with Town Counsel that there are not concerns with this action. Holly did email Tim regarding this issue. Tim has asked Town Council template letter to be sent to terminate the contract.

Review of the 2006 Banta Davis Plan:

This topic will be discussed at a future meeting.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

Next Meeting:

To Be Determined.