

## Recreation Meeting Minutes: 4-15-20

Meeting began at 6:03pm

Recreation Commission: Drew McMorrow, Mark Spears, Amy Smack, Courtney Bittelari, Lynette Kelleher

Mosquito: Sarah Hart

### Agenda Topics:

1. Review of Meeting Minutes from 3/2/20
  - a. *Motion: Amy made the motion to accept the March 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Mark seconded. All in favor: Yes*
2. Public Correspondence
  - a. Sylvia Willard from Conservation Commission shared a sign which will be posted on the trails to keep trails open during the COVID-19 crisis.
    - i. The sign states To keep trails open, we ask the following: Please be friendly and courteous to visitors, Do not congregate in groups in parking lots, Keep the recommended social/physical distance on trails, Do not touch or use benches or kiosks, Leash your dog, Please pick up after your dogs.
  - b. Mary Zoll submitted a letter to the Recreation Commission expressing her concerns with the location of the proposed dog park. Additional discussion is below under the Dog Park agenda item.
  - c. John Troast from the Carlisle Historical Society submitted a letter to the Recreation Commission expressing concern for the proposed location of the Community Center. The letter states that “the Society has physical evidence and extensive documentation suggesting that the Mosley-Goff Property and northern portion of the Banta Davis Land may be sites of Native American cultural and archaeological significance.”
    - i. Holly will invite John Troast to the next scheduled Recreation Meeting to review and discuss the concerns of the Historical Society.
3. Field Update by Michael Hightower
  - a. Michael would like to request a change to the organic care of the fields. Michael suggested slice seeding the fields in the spring rather than aerating the fields. Aerating the fields would open holes in the soil and populate a crabgrass infestation. There is no difference in cost to make this change.
  - b. Michael also mentioned that Acelepryn should be applied in April to maximize its effectiveness. The Acelepryn would be applied in lieu of the beneficial nematodes and at the same cost.
  - c. Overall the fields look good.
  - d. The 90ft baseball field at Spalding needs some work. An adult group used this field last year in exchange for maintenance on the field. Michael mentioned that the clay is low and could use an additional 70 ton of material (approx. 3 truck loads).

- e. Mark mentioned that this is a good time to work aggressively on the fields. With the fields closed due to COVID-19 it is an opportunity to improve the quality of the turf.
  - f. Youth sports are on hold so this is a good time to slice seed the fields to regenerate the grass.
  - g. Mark suggested working with Lawhorn to flag the sprinkler heads before slice seeding.
  - h. Michale will contact Lawhorn to flag the sprinkler heads and set up the wireless sprinkler system.
4. Liaison Reports
- a. FinCom has suggested that all departments reduce the FY21 budget by 5%. This is a total of \$9400.
  - b. The General line item was increased to \$16,000. This line item will be decreased by \$4000. This decrease along with the overall budget decrease from FY20-FY21 should be noted.
5. Field/Park Closing due to COVID-19
- a. Amy inquired about closing the parks/tennis courts. Other towns have closed these areas due to the COVID-19 crisis. Areas of concern are Diment Park, tennis courts and the playground at Banta Davis. Playing fields could remain open!
  - b. Drew suggested we defer to the Board of Health on this issue. Holly will reach out to Linda Fantasia for the Board of Health's recommendation with regard to the closing of playgrounds and tennis courts.
6. Dog Park
- a. Courtney presented the proposed Dog Park to the School Committee. There seemed to be a lot of personal comments with regard to the dog park vs questions from the School Committee as a whole.
    - i. Amy felt that the majority of the discussion was generally supportive. The goal of the dog park is for dog owners to socialize at a community park.
    - ii. The question of the land being on school property was raised. Drew will follow up with the Board of Selectmen and Town Counsel to determine ownership of the proposed area.
    - iii. The School Committee will reconvene and take a position on the project at a future meeting.
  - b. Holly received a letter from Mary Zoll concerning the proposed location of the Dog Park. Mary talked with Drew regarding her concerns and Drew suggested she send a letter to the Recreation Department specifying her concerns.
    - i. The Zoll property is located 800ft from the proposed area at Banta Davis.
    - ii. There is a strip of land that separates the Zoll property from Banta Davis. The assurance letter states to communicate with appropriate and relevant town boards with regard to abutters.
    - iii. RecCom should meet with the Planning Board to confirm potential abutters to the property.

- iv. RecCom should properly address the letter. Holly will draft a letter to confirm receipt of Mary's letter and to inform her that RecCom is considering the issue and is working in conjunction with other town boards to properly address the matter.
- v. RecCom should consider other areas on the Banta Davis property in an effort to explore all options.

#### 7. Tennis Courts

- a. Amy talked to Peter Best and David Wiener regarding the addition of Pickleball lines on the tennis courts. Both Peter and David are supportive of the idea.
  - i. David made recommendations on the proper paint to use for the Pickleball lines and Peter suggested using black paint.
  - ii. Peter also suggested adding two Pickleball courts rather than 4 courts.
  - iii. David thought the quote from New England Sealcoating for 4 Pickleball courts was high and suggested looking for additional quotes.
    - 1. Amy will have New England Sealcoating rebid the quote for 2 courts vs. 4.
    - 2. Holly and Amy will work on getting additional quotes for the project.
- b. Peter mentioned that the courts are getting quite a bit of use. This could be due to the recent quarantine due to COVID-19.
  - i. Peter suggested adding future tennis courts at another location. This item will be added to a future agenda.
- c. Peter also mentioned that instructors from other towns are using the Carlisle courts to give private lessons. Again, this could be due to COVID-19 and other towns closing tennis courts.
  - i. Holly will work with Peter and Amy to create a sign indicating various rules for the Carlisle tennis courts.

#### 8. Community Center

- a. See comments under Public Correspondence

#### 9. Spalding Study

- a. Drew will send Holly the bid documents for the Spalding Study. Holly will work with Tim Goddard and Jennifer Gibbons to formally send out the bid proposals

#### 10. Benfield Site Visit

- a. Reschedule during the summer months

Meeting adjourned approximately 7:35pm.