

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

August 9, 2023

Room 7 at Town Hall 10 Central St. and Zoom

Town Employees - Cheryl Marshall - Director

Members present: Sean Daly, Olga Hayes Muffin Driscoll, and Karlee Blaisdell

- Multiple Town members present - in person
 - Nicole DelRosario requested to do a recording of the meeting.

Call to order: 5:32 PM

B) July 12, 2023 minutes:

1. reviewed and approved
 - a. Muffin motioned to approve minutes, Olga Seconded. All committee members vote to approve.

C) Committee Update:

1. Our applicant will be present at the next meeting. BOS are still accepting applicants.

D) Pickleball Update:

1. Recommendation was presented to Selectmen at their July 17th meeting.
 - a. It was approved at that meeting, to move forward with USA Pickleball and they scheduled to come out to test out an option next week.
 - b. Kim Louge asked at that meeting to limit play time hours, whilst the Parks department also received emails to keep the hours as is.
 - i. Currently hours are set to 8-8.
 - ii. As requests have come to the committee we have listened to the concerns and are working towards solutions.
 - c. At this point we are moving forward with sound mitigation, but are keeping the hours 8-8 until further notice.

E) Memorial Bench Application:

1. Peter Crabtree @ Tucks Point
2. Paul Manos for Cyndie Manos @ Town Hall
 - i. Muffin moved to approve both benches, Olga Seconded. All committee members vote to approve.

F) Field & Use update - Pine ST & Brook ST:

1. Pine Street field has permits ready to start play. Can start with sod installation done by August 28-start of September.
 - a. Police presence would be nice when the field opens.
 - b. Crosswalk and light beacons should be installed prior to field opening.
2. Brook Street will start the 28th, all testing being done at the same time as High School.
 - a. Hyland getting ripped up 11th should be done by the 30th.

G) Fall Carnival:

1. The Harvest Carnival - set to run October 20- 22nd.
 - a. Police and Fire departments have approved.
 - b. 10 Sponsors from MBTS as of now.

- c. This is a fundraiser for the Boosters.
- d. Posters coming soon from local artist
- e. There will be a Ferris wheel.

E) Public Comment:

***Each comment is limited to 2 minutes.**

1. Questions from the Public town residences-

- a. Nicole DelRoasario: 8 Forest St– Wants to know the name and qualifications of the USA Pickleball representative coming to test equipment. Also wants to know what out of the 3 choices of sound mitigation we are proceeding with.
 - i. Carl Schmidt will be coming for USA Pickleball, his qualifications are he does installations.
 - ii. Out of the 3 choices provided, raising the fence and installing the sound mitigation was the best solution for the Town. A bubble was too expensive and wouldn't stop the noise. We have no other locations in town that could house the courts.
 - iii. We have compromised on all sides, and are working on sound mitigation, and are trying to please all town residents. Opinions can only be taken so far.
- b. Kim Lougue - 142 Summer St.--The Board of Health made a recommendation to BOS to disregard the sound study done because it was based on a model. The recommend that an actual sound study be done at the courts.
 - i. Since they made the recommendation to the BOS we have not received anything from that at this time.
 - ii. When we have installed the sound mitigation we will do a sound test to see if it does in fact lower the sound decibels. Test will be conducted by the company we are using to install.
- c. Johanna Ross: 1 Wyndham Park Ext–Thanked the committee for the long road the parks and recreation has been on with the Pickleball courts. Appreciates the best efforts of hearing out all the concerns. Stated that there are no laws in Massachusetts that are being broken, and the sound study stated that for MA sound laws this was not at a dangerous level. Wants to know what end we will be able to reach? There are people checking the courts in the morning, and at night just to appease a small group of people. Not everyone is going to be happy with their neighborhood during all hours of the day. Driving by the courts has seen the usage of the courts lower. We're not talking about constant usage for 12 hours.
- d. Elizabeth Hill: 11 Norwood Ave– Declined being physically recorded by Nicole. Against the hours changing because as a full time worker appreciates being able to play after work.
- e. Bill Shipman: Overlook Road– 2 Questions: How many houses are affected close enough to the pickleball courts to hear the noise? Of the

10-20 houses that hear the noise, how many have complained about the noise?

Wanted a perspective of the percentage of complaints.

- i. Subjective to personal hearing. We are unsure of the exact number of people that hear it.
 - ii. 4 houses have complained about the noise. We did have one other that complained about early Sunday hours, but are fine now with opening starting at 8am.
 - iii. What bothers one person doesn't bother another, it is a subjective thing.
- f. Nicole DelRoasario: 8 Forest St—Has the town issued any permits to large groups? Or the cape ann pickleball or BNT?
- i. We have not, but we will look into it. If they are charging people they have to file for permits.
- g. Caroline Devonshire: 17 Masconomo— Town has worked really hard for minimal complaints. Over the past 50 years it has been tennis, it has been skateboarding park. The land has always been slated for sports or recreation of some aspect. New things bring new complaints, feels for the people that live across the street. 127 is a busy noisy street, there are lots of construction and trucks going by all the time. As a player when they do they can't hear the sound of pickleball, this could be due to their paddle selection as well. Regulating the type of equipment will be incredibly difficult. Unacceptable to close the courts at 5pm for the people who work.
- h. Nicole DelRoasario: 8 Forest St—My family has been living in a family home for 45 years, coexisting with tennis and skateboarding, but pickleball is next level noise. People come from all over the place and they are all not nice. Skatepark was left to deteriorate.
- i. Caroline Devonshire: 17 Masconomo— Would like to understand the type of noise barrier? Doesn't want to see wasted resources on something that will not work, and also will keep people unhappy for other reasons. Prior to investment would like to see a presentation on the type of material, how it will mitigate sound, and hopefully it will please everyone in that neighborhood. Also would like to see the decibel reading that is there now without pickleball i.e. the road, train, etc. compared to with pickleball. Will the sound mitigation reverb the sound from the road back towards the road?
- i. That is our goal, but we are also understanding that we may never please everybody, but we are going to try. Once we have a couple of options we will bring them to have people to look at. We haven't seen anything that will be perfect yet, but we are hopeful to find something.

H) Program Update:

1. Starting to approve end of summer programs. We did 2 weeks plus one more for use of Chowder House. We have gotten some 9-3 for 3 weeks to make use of Space during the week. Making our revolving fund money. Our new watercolor class for adults, 3 weeks done, with 1 more left for summer. Bringing back night playground for 4 weeks with at least 20 kids. Afterschool care from 12-2 averaging 45 kids. Started a field hockey league - 1st and 2nd graders like it. During the summers 31 people signed up and showed up at Masconomo Park for Zumba.

Unforeseen Updates:

1. Questions about what we are naming Pine St field. 2 different requests have come in for the field name. Brian from BOS will look into the town policy for naming.
2. Singing beach - no open fires on the beach? A moby mat – is that something we can do for ADA?
 - a. They reinstated fires on the beach with fire dept permit, but it is carry out burnt logs policy.
 - b. We have one it is kept in the bathhouse, maybe look at using CPC funds to get something easier to use.
3. Do we have a Self Defense class offered?
 - a. we don't but will look at hosting one in town and will speak with the police department.
4. Nicole DelRoasario – Didn't Karlee state she was resigning?
 - a. As addressed in a previous meeting, that has shifted and Karlee is staying as a member of the Parks and Rec committee.

H) Next Meeting

1. Tentative Meeting set for September 20 at 5:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM

Respectfully submitted by Karlee Blaisdell