

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

October 18, 2023

Room 7 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: 5:35 PM

B) September 20th and October 2nd minutes:

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

C) MELL (Manchester Essex Little League) Update:

1. Steve and Jeff from MELL came to share their successes of the 2023 season. The updated fields for safety and the canteen opening. They are looking for the 2024 season to move the batting cage to free up some more parking spaces. They purchased a new scoreboard hoping to install it by November 2023. They wanted to thank Manchester departments for help especially in fixing and straightening the fence. They will share their proposal for the new scoreboard.

D) Pickleball Update:

1. As of the day of this meeting the Parks and Recreation Committee has just received the pickleball report from USA Pickleball, about the tested sound mitigation equipment. It is still in draft form. They tested out 5 different types of materials with 3 different products. Increasing fencing is a big component of our budget.

K) Public Comment:

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

1. Questions from the Public town residences-
 - a. Nicole DelRosario: 8 Forest St--
 - i. Did the town purchase this report? – No as of now it was provided for free.
 - ii. How did the town acquire it? Who contracted this/Where the contact came from? Cheryl was not at the testing but Cheryl was the main contact. Cheryl did not have the answers to Nicole's submitted questions at the time of emailing those in, and they were too specific of questions for us to answer.
 - iii. Who is monitoring the camera feed? It is not recorded? How short is the memory? So the video from September is available for us to review now since it was reviewable at the time of the Board of Selectmen meeting? – It is a live feed to the police department. It has a short memory for what it records. Longer than an hour but it is motion activated so it depends on how

many times activated or for how long it is activated. It was viewable at that time but it may not be available any longer.

- b. Kim Logue - 142 Summer St.--During the Oct 2 BOS meeting, the selectmen asked for the recordings to be sent to him? How were those panels tested accurately when there are huge gaps in the materials? Why isn't it being considered to move them to upper pine street instead of wasting money on fences and sound mitigation equipment?
 - i. A log of the recordings were provided to him.
 - ii. We did not do the testing so we don't know exactly how they measured the readings to determine their results. We know they measured it before and after placement and we can assume they looked to see if it lowered it from the sample before it was installed.
 - iii. That is a question that is bigger than the Parks department, it would require a lot more money.
- c. Cindy Dodge: 2 Overlook Road– What is the purpose of that camera?
 - i. The camera is to tell when people are on the court, especially before/after hours.
- d. Becky Baun: 7 Victoria Road– Was there ever any issues when it was a skatepark? Or Tennis?
 - i. There were some issues when it was a skatepark, traffic and parking were issues.
- e. Maryanne Coons: 5 Ocean St– I would like to answer Becky's question about the skatepark, and share her story of her own children's activities at the skatepark.
- f. Sally Hut: 78 School St–Wants to thank town Parks and Rec for the hours of work done on this project. The noise from traffic deafening while playing pickleball. It is noisy on that road and so is much of the town. Enough work has been done. Winter is coming and the courts will be closed.
- g. Whitey Baun: 7 Victoria Road– Is there concern over the sound barrier bouncing the traffic sound back towards the road?
 - i. We are looking at sound absorbing materials not deflecting materials.
- h. Nicole DelRosario: 8 Forest St–The panels on the corners are not addressing the hundreds of pops that radiate off of the courts. There are people from all over the place coming to the courts, and while town residents in town are more respectful these people are not, they are urinating just outside of the courts, using motorized bikes, parking in our driveways. The noise is a cause of health problems in our home, we cannot open our windows. Please close the courts.
- i. Kim Logue - 142 Summer St– Asked if Cheryl could provide to the police department a recording from October 4th around 5:30pm, of a man

urinating in public outside of the courts. The police came when called and it was in the paper but only listed a 'Suspicious Activity report to follow'

- i. The police should have the recording. Please proceed with submitting a proper public request. The police have not come to Parks and Rec for the recording.
- j. Johanna Ross: 1 Wyndham Park Ext– Pickleball courts are one of the more successful town projects in the last 5-10 years. You go to the courts and you see people of all ages, all genders, all races playing, it is pure jubilation. Back in August when town counsel was here and he confirmed that there was nothing illegal happening with these courts, and that the decibels are under the rate they need to be for the state. Third, if someone was urinating outside my house or at the park that is on the police department to tell them that is illegal and to issue a citation.
- k. Kerry Bisner: 5 Big Rock Road– The panels that are up currently are ugly, will the sound panels come down during the off seasons?
 - i. Yes we will be taking down.
- l. Gail Coote: 4 Mark Street– used to live at 31 Lincoln street, where high school was, when they bought the house they knew there would be lots of things in conjunction with the school being there. Knowing that the house you live in is across the street from a park you should know that that will bring activity there, be it a skatepark, tennis courts, or now pickleball. granted the noise will be loud, it's not all day everyday. They live on the golf course now and have to deal with people urinating in their yard and have to work with the country club about the issue. Better signage at pickleball about the port a potty at sweeney could be helpful.
- m. Sally Hut: 78 School St–Where is the best place for parking for pickleball? I noticed that Forest street says no pickleball parking? They should be grateful that they have that. Asked for no church or boy scout parking.
 - i. Nicole stated that there is no parking for any activity at sweeney even when it was tennis and the skatepark.
- n. Kim Logue - 142 Summer St– How will unauthorized tournaments be addressed in the future?
 - i. We are working on a solution. Matter hasn't been discussed by the committee yet since this event just happened. When the police show up that has nothing to do with Park and Recreation, all matters concerning the police need to be addressed to the Police Department.
- o. Maryanne Coons: 5 Ocean St– Went to visit a friend and parked on Harold St, had the police called on her even though she at the time was not going to play pickleball. Lives in town and has a resident sticker, she should be able to park on Harold Street.
- p. Cindy Dodge: 2 Overlook Road– Statement about sympathy for the neighbors, but loves pickleball. Is hoping the sound barriers and maybe

some new shrubs to help with the looks, is hoping this problem can be resolved.

E) Committee Update:

1. Sean Masterson was on BOS agenda. They are going to be doing an interview at the next meeting on Nov 6. Our judgements and opinions are taken in by BOS.

F) Field & Use update:

1. Pine Street usage is going great, there is some goalmouth wear and tear but this is expected. It is permitted for youth soccer and occasionally middle school. Resident feedback is positive.
2. Brook Street is open and used on the weekends primarily.
3. Policy naming ideas – The committee is leaning towards a Volunteer Field because of the quantity of people that have made impacts on the town especially in youth sports. We will work on compiling a policy for going forward with naming. Both our policy and name will be presented to BOS.

G) Open Spaces update:

1. There was a breakthrough with powder house hill and the residents on pine st. For the past 2-3 years the housing authority didn't remember the policy that it was a public access. They acknowledged that it is part of the land usage. They are wanting to add some parking spaces on Fire Road.
2. Western woods MET and Bike/Ped want to figure out all the trail entrances, working with Cape Ann Trust.
3. Bike/Ped want to do some signage for Powder House Hill.

H) CPA:

1. We need to provide our project idea applications by December 5th. We have asked about dividing between two fiscal years. We have had some smaller ideas the past few meetings such as the Mobility mats for singing beach, and signage for the new Pine St field. We threw out the idea of Masconomo Park paths being redone, but CPA is against this due to the lack of upkeep maintenance. Looking into potentially having the back field at Sweeny Park to have turf put in with drainage.

I) Benches:

1. 2 applications for memorial benches that are grandfathered into the old rate. These will both be at Reed Park. Muffin motioned to approve, Olga Seconded, all committee members voted yes.
2. We need to know how many spots we have for benches across the town. This way we can predetermine how many we can accept or add in the future.
3. Thinking if there is any other type of memorial item we can have to substitute benches.

4. Nicole DelRosario – 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.

J) Director's Update:

1. Pine Street the crosswalks and beacons have been installed and people are noticing this park is being used and starting to naturally slow. We are still waiting for the bench, bike rack, and water fountain to be installed. The past weekend there were some non-truths being distributed onto parked cars about the park.
 - a. Thinking about releasing a notice to the Cricket about the work done to ensure this park is safe.
2. Sweeney project on hold, con comm just hired a new agent. We share this with the town of Hamilton.
3. Pickleball - the report just arrived today in draft form. They want to potentially test their products on us and we would receive the product for free if this were the case. Working on the details.
 - a. Nicole DelRosario asked if we were selected as a test if they would be holding events there? No was the answer.

There are 3 potential types hanging up at the courts currently.

There was a tournament happening at the park without consent, the police escorted Cheryl there to inform them of the town's policies, and they agreed to turn off their music, and take down signage. They were given an hour and half to wrap it up.

4. Carnival – there is a new company for running and they have been good to work with. They have asked to have the equipment stay the night since they are from New Hampshire. All public safety - Police, Fire, and others approved to be there.
5. Halloween the police have stated that trick or treating will be from 5:30 - 7:30.
6. Crowell church has a couple weddings booked coming up shortly.
7. Wobblin Goblin is set to be October 28th.
8. Library fundraiser art show is October 20th, wine and cheese party to kick it off. Goes all weekend.
9. Tucks Point CPA projects are wrapping up, the floors were power washed. Also opening up the next year of applications for events, it is a lottery system starting at 5pm.

M) Next Meeting

1. Tentative Meeting set for November 15 at 5:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM

Respectfully submitted by Karlee Blaisdell