Manchester Parks and Recreation Committee
October 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Olga Hayes, Cheryl Marshall, Mike Coyne, Sean Daly, Tod Johnson

Absent: Joe Demeo

Minutes opened at 5:04 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: No previous meeting minutes to approve as previous meeting was a town wide open forum on the Parks and Recreation Master Field plan; which is part of the town Master Plan.

CPA: December 1st is the deadline for 2020 CPA project proposals. There is 2019 CPA money set aside for plantings at Masco via CPA funds.

Special Events: No permits for special events were presented to the committee.

Historical Tidbit: The History Channel was in town recently and interviewed a descendant of John Wilkes Booth; the late prominent actor, and even more accomplished presidential assassin; in the cemetery at Crowell Chapel. Unconfirmed reports suggest Mr. Booth was buried in Manchester by the Sea as opposed to the largely believed location of Green Mountain Cemetery in Baltimore.

Harbormaster Building Update: 3 locations are being considered with the near elimination of two due to exposure, and difficulty in building. The location that does maintain potential would be within Reed Park as you head towards the train tracks. Townsfolk of Manchester are in communication with the MBTA regarding setback requirements from the tracks, and this information should be delivered with the on-time expectation we have all come to enjoy from the MBTA.

Town Land Purchase: A parcel of land which is not approachable or usable without considerable legal and construction efforts, may be purchased by the town and turned into “open space”, as opposed to its current designation as “land no one can get to or use”. The Parks and Rec committee are confident the Open Space committee is handling this situation with the professionalism and concern the circumstance requires.

Pump Track: After careful consideration and lengthy discussion across several meetings, the committee voted unanimously not to support the building of, or investigation into, a Pump Track. Despite the impassioned plea of Max and Ken Warnock; the committee simply has more eminent and valid considerations for use of land and/or parks within town for the foreseeable future.

Manchester 375th Anniversary Review: A solid array of activities was reviewed and revered by the committee, with special attention being paid to the live performance of Manchester’s Meeting Houses on November 15, 2020. Sean confirmed his intention to be first in line for tickets given he has never seen houses dance before.

Fields – Master Plan: After lengthy review over several meetings and special events; as well as many committee members personal involvement in youth sport organizations and field use; the following was voted on and will be forwarded on by the Parks and Recreation Committee.
• **Sweeney, Option 2**, will be presented as the top priority for consideration as it simply provides the most additional hours of use for the town. Consideration should be given to expand the footprint of what is proposed in the south-east direction in order to allow a “full game field” to exist at Sweeney. This “full field” would be able to accommodate football, and many high school level sport games rather than just practices.

• **Pine Street, Option 1**, will be positioned as our second recommended priority given the fact that it adds new field square footage in town, and has a more palatable price tag.

• **Masco Field** plan will be presented as our third priority.

• Parks and Recreation committee members will enthusiastically volunteer to be part of the “merger” or exposure of our recommendations to other committees in town which may have geographical overlap of the land in question, or which have alternative priorities of use. Dual use of these parcels will be explored, as well as a discussion of how our committee designated our priorities. Cheryl will inform enthusiastic members of our committee what they have volunteered for, and when meetings are being held they can attend with enthusiasm.

• **Note:** Coach Ed field is part of the construction plan at the Elementary School and is not being considered as part of any proposal by the Parks and Recreation committee.

Next Meeting and Minutes: December 10, 2019 6:00 p.m. – Sean Daly will take notes.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:23 p.m.