

RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2021

7:00pm

Zoom Meeting

Present: Nancy Corcoran, Commissioner; Chris Hardy, Commissioner; Hema Santhanakrishnan, Commissioner; Steve Trimble, Commissioner; Joe Will, Commissioner; David Martin, Select Board Liaison; Melissa Rier, Recreation Director.
Absent: None.

Opening: Steve Trimble opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

I. Regular Business

1. Review of Meeting Minutes from March 2nd, 2021:

The motion to accept the March 2, 2021 meeting minutes as amended was approved, 5-1.

2. Citizen Concerns:

None to report.

3. Reports:

a) Fields and Facilities:

i) Field Damage at School Street and Elm Street Fields

Melissa reported tire mark damage at both fields. Both incidents were resolved and repaired by those committing the damage.

ii) Pickleball

Jones will not be the location of new pickleball courts due to being situated within a flood plain. The Recreation Department plans to add sand volleyball courts to the excavated area rather than the proposed pickleball courts.

Melissa reported two sites reviewed as possible pickleball court areas: the parcel behind Staples Plaza and the field at the Robbins Mill Recreation Area. A location has not been chosen yet.

b) Rail Trails: There are no new issues around the well-used rail trails. A usage count of the Bruce Freeman Rail trail will be held on May 18, 19, 20, and May 22 and 23. Volunteers are needed to assist with the count.

c) Events: The first Recreation Department event of 2021 will be the Pirate Party/Treasure Hunt, May 2nd at NARA Park. Our pre-registration

requirement will ensure compliance with state COVID-19 guidelines of maximum 150 people at a public event. The \$5 participant fee will offset costs. The first concert of the 2021 season is July 23rd.

d) Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”):

- NARA Sports Pavilion may receive approximately \$240,000.
- Jones Playground Surfacing Expansion may possibly receive half of the requested amount of \$120,000.
- Gardner Playground Renovation will most likely receive less than the requested amount of \$350,000.
- Elm Street Court Reconstruction will not be funded this year.
- Dog Park funding is unknown at this time.

II. New/Special Business:

4. Grants – Parks and Bicycles: An ADA grant in the amount of \$7,500 was successfully applied for by Austin Cyganiewicz of the Town Manager’s office for Recreation to purchase a fleet of accessible bicycles. Melissa is collaborating with Leslie Johnson of the Committee on Disabilities and Bike-On.com to determine which trike models will best suit the community. Park personnel will house and secure the ADA bikes at NARA Park. A free loan program is in development.
5. Budget Workshop: At a meeting via Zoom on April 6, each Town Department and Division Head presented its fiscal year 2022 budget to the Finance Committee and Select Board, with the opportunity for comments and questions.
6. NARA Opening: NARA Beach is scheduled to open on Saturday, May 29th, 2021.

III. Consent Items: None.

Adjournment: At 8:19 pm Chris moved to adjourn the meeting, and Joe seconded.

Roll Call: Corcoran, yes; Hardy, yes; Santhanakrishnan, yes; Trimble, yes; Will, yes. The motion was approved, 5-0.