



RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

January 4, 2022

7:00 PM

Remote Zoom Meeting

Present: Nancy Corcoran, Commissioner; Christopher Hardy, Clerk; Stephen Trimble, Chair; Joe Will, Commissioner; Melissa Rier, Recreation Director

Absent: Hema Santhanakrishnan, Commissioner

7:02 PM Steve opened the meeting.

I. Regular Business

1. Review of December, 2021 meeting minutes:

Minutes as amended were accepted. Motion made by Joe, seconded by Nancy, and passed unanimously, 4-0.

2. Resident Concerns:

No concerns were reported.

3. Reports:

- a) *Fields and Facilities*

a. An Eagle Scout is in the process of building a picnic table in memory of Ed Holcomb at the North Acton Community Gardens.

- b) *Rail Trails*

a. A resident called to ask if we plow the rail trails. Melissa explained that the Town does not plow rail trails as recreational areas are low on the priority list. Also, the rail trails are used for snow shoeing and cross-country skiing in the winter.

- c) *Events*

a. Melissa reported that Recreation Events Coordinator Maura Haberman's husband, Peter Haberman, passed away. The Department collected donations in Peter's honor to support the events series at NARA Park.

b. Winter Carnival – Expected to be held on the first Saturday of February.

- d) *Senior Park / Dog Park*

a. Steve volunteered as a liaison for housing and dog park meetings. The Dog Park has been approved and Dog Park Committee is working on the proposal for a Stanton Foundation Grant.

- e) *Community Preservation Committee*

- *CPA Projects:*

- *NARA Sports Pavilion – Contractors are currently finishing the South Building interior. Completion is expected in March.*
- *Gardner Playground Renovation – Contracts have been signed for the playground equipment and parking lot. Melissa will be presenting at the Historic Commission meeting on February 8 to discuss the Renovation.*
- *Elm Street Court Reconstruction – Melissa is expecting many pickleball and tennis supporters at the CPC presentation on January 25.*
- *Recreation Center Playground – There is now a need for a playground at the Recreation Center due to youth programming at this location.*

II. New/Special Business

4. Open Space and Recreation Plan:

The Commissioners discussed the goals and public survey as regards Recreation.

5. Field Use Policy Concerning Racism:

Joe's opinion is that, historically, some coaches have shown bias towards acknowledging players who perform exceptionally well while not acknowledging others. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission should handle situations relating to racism.

The Recreation Commission does not feel qualified or comfortable adding a rule relating to racism in the field use policy for leagues renting municipal fields.

Melissa will draft a letter for the Commissioners to review and then submit to the Town Manager.

III. Consent Items

6. N/A

Meeting ended at 7:59 PM with motion made by Chris, seconded by Nancy and passed unanimously, 4-0.

Upcoming Recreation Commission Meetings

| Date | Time | Location |
|------------------|---------|----------|
| February 1, 2022 | 7:00 PM | Zoom |
| March 1, 2022 | 7:00 PM | Zoom |
| April 5, 2022 | 7:00 PM | TBD |