

June 3, 2019

Bobby Beagan, Mara Huston, Dick Williamson Frank Livera, Kate Marchand, Kate Trainor, Alex Polemeropoulos (Girls Softball), Janie Dretler, (BOS), John Beeler

Public Comment: None

Director Report: Frank Livera, Acting Director, informed the Commission that Kayla was on maternity leave as of May 29, 2019. He stated Sudbury Summer is in good shape with plans and staffing, Sudbury Adventure is still in need of staff, but counselor interviews are scheduled. Bobby asked if enrollment was comparable to last year. Frank responded that some of the camp weeks still have openings, but the numbers are similar to last year. He stated Kayla is expected to return in late August or early September. Bobby asked Frank to look into putting the lights on the basketball courts at Fairbank during the summer.

Mara asked about the ongoing Pool issues. She stated she was pleased to see the dive well had been cleaned and requested the dive well be filled in the night rather than the morning to reduce the cold water for the morning water exercise classes.

Girls Softball: Kate Marchand discussed issues with the girls' softball fields and requested funds to improve the sites and make them safer. She gave the Commission a list of requested improvements and estimated costs. Girls Softball would supply the labor, but she is looking for funds from the Town. She stated this has been a very wet spring, which has exacerbated the field issues. Kate showed pictures of the wet fields and areas they would like improved. They would like dugouts on the fields, nets for safety and improved drainage along the third base side of the fields. Kate suggested dugouts similar to the ones youth baseball put at Haskell field,

Kate has not discussed these field improvement requests with Chris Felt, Park and Grounds, but she will forward her email to him. Kate prioritized the request as follows: the six dugouts, nets and then fixing the drainage. The estimated costs, based on Home Depot prices is \$24,000. Kate also mentioned possible nets at Curtis, since the foul balls often end up in the street.

Mara suggested using some of the MeadowWalk funds as a possible funding source, but Bobby stated the second \$250,000 has not been received yet. He also mentioned that Davis field had been prioritized to be renovated with those funds. The other possibility mentioned was to use funds out of the Town Manager budget designated for repairs on the fields; this amount is estimated at \$50,000.

The timeline for the repairs is after the season, sometime around mid-August.

Kate stated she would send an email with her requests to Dan and Chris.

Bobby also suggested the possibility of using CPC funds as a backup plan if other funds are not available,

Kate asked about the Friends of Park and Recreation money. Mara stated the Friends organization is not operating at this time because the proper forms have not been filed for a number of years. She is currently trying to get the Friends organization operational again, similar to the Friends of the Goodnow Library and Friends of the Council on Aging and is currently looking for volunteers to run the organization. She needs a President, Treasurer and Clerk to run the organization. She has one individual who is interested and is still looking for others. \$20,000 is currently in the account. The organization would be separate from the Park and Recreation Commission and Park and Recreation Department and the volunteers would be making the decisions on requests that came before them. They would also be in charge of running fundraising activities to raise funds.

Curtis Middle School Irrigation Issues: Bobby read an email from Chris Felt regarding the irrigation issues at Curtis. Chris stated the irrigation system at Curtis is not operating properly and it has become extremely expensive to continue replacing irrigation heads and filters. He also expressed concern that the expenses are coming out of the Field Enterprise Fund, but the youth user groups use of this field is limited. Parks and Grounds spends a great deal of time working on the Curtis fields for the school, maintaining them for middle school athletic games and paying for the ongoing expenses of the irrigation system, He wanted to bring this issue to the Commissions to see if the schools should be paying for some of these expenses. He suggested having the well inspected and the entire system flushed out. The system is shut off until a decision is made on how to handle the expenses. Bobby asked Frank how often the youth groups use Curtis and Frank stated he would research the actual youth user group use at Curtis.

Sewataro: If the Article passes, the Town will put an RFP out to Camp Operators interested in running a camp on the Sewataro land. Bobby stated again that he was disappointed that the Park and Recreation Commission opinion was an afterthought in the plan for purchasing the Sewataro land and there is no clear plan for the land. Mara felt it still needed to be stated that the Fairbank Community Center was still a priority for the Commission and it may be impacted by the purchase of Sewataro,

Janie Dretler, BOS, presented a comparison of Nara Park in Acton. She suggested reading their Master Plan and highlighted some of the concerns the Park in Acton has such as security issues, ongoing expenses etc. Janie cleared up any misconception that Sewataro would run next year. She stated this summer is the last year Sewataro will run.

Fairbank Community Center: Mara reported the new group has met once. She discussed information on programs and current shared space to the first meeting. She plans to meet on Wednesday with Frank and Janie to walk through the Fairbank building. June 11th is the next meeting of the Fairbank working group. Bobby asked Mara to keep the Commission updated on the process. She stated she is still looking for the needs requests from Recreation. She asked

Kayla, but did not receive any information before she went out on maternity. She has reached out to the Town Manager for the needs that were submitted in the past.

Janie Dretler requested camp attendance numbers from recent years.

John Beeler stated the Senior Center said no on January 8 to the Town Manager and the most recent plan for the future Fairbank Community Center, He stated the Senior Center wants the groups to work together.

Master Plan: Bobby asked Dick Williamson to make sure the information is passed on to the Commission. Mara mentioned the survey she just received from the Planning Department. She asked Frank to put the survey on the Recreation website and suggested putting it on the Recreation Facebook site.

Davis Field: Bobby mentioned he is working with Dan to make Davis level, so it can be used to rest sections of Haskell.

Misc:

Minutes: Motion made to approve the minutes from April 29, 2019. Motion received a second and minutes were approved 3-0.

Bobby read a letter he received from Bella Wong in support of the renovation of the tennis courts at Featherland and confirming that LSRHS will transfer \$10,000 to a Park and Recreation account, Mara stated the money approved at the Town meeting for the additional two courts at Featherland will not be available until July 1, 2019.

Park and Recreation Commission: Bobby stated he would like to review the Charter of the Commission at a future meeting, He would like to discuss what the role of the Commission and get specifics on what they are expected to do or if they are just a policy making board,

He also stated that Michael Ensley had officially resigned from the Park and Recreation Commission, He was unsure if Michael had contacted the Town Clerk' office,

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.