

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes of the Meeting

November 8th, 2017

Meeting called to order: 7:35 pm.

Commissioners in Attendance: George Caye, Al Larson, Dan Rezende, Katie Graham, Renee Powell, Bill Nowak. Rita Goel, Craig Zimmerman

Also in Attendance: Ray Favreau, John Caldwell, and Matt Riley

Approval of Minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve the October minutes. Passed unanimously.

Public Input: George Caye spoke to the group about SWLL wanting a sign placed at the Shack facing the road. Cost estimates were around \$4000. He asked if the town could make a sign in house for the cost of materials. John will speak to the parks crew and get an estimate of material costs and hopefully get a sign made over the winter. SWLL would need a permit to get a sign placed on the shack. They will also install pitching rubbers and home plates near the batting cages if SWLL purchases the materials.

Master Plan Mapping: The group looked at two more parks in town. George made an excel spread sheet of the town parks to use as a reference when rating parks. Craig asked if there is a way to determine if all parks are being utilized to their full potential and what the purchase cost of each was for better determining the value against use.

1) Fairgrounds at Rye (83 acres)

Strengths

- Prox. to Rye St Park (Parking, Rest Rooms)
- Large flat area for future rentals and sports use
- State Debris sight
- Summer and winter use

Weaknesses

- Need a sign
- No Amenities (Elect., H2O, Storage, Parking ETC)
- Restrooms
- Railway prevents connecting with Rye St. Park

Enhancements

- Permanent Parking
- Restrooms
- Water, Electrical, Lights
- Picnic Table
- Storage Facility
- Security Cameras

An aside to the use of the area for events, Ray and John are going to a state meeting about managing large town events (Strawberry Fest, Apple Harvest, Light the Night) and how to get a better understanding to get everything set up for issues (site design, parking design, overflow issues). They want to have a permanent plan in place to set up for all town events, including large sporting events at Rye Street and Nevers Park. Another issue that will be coming up is

food vendors and the need for health inspections at events. A policy needs to be set to tie all the town departments in to any event (SWPD, SWFD, Health, Parks, Rec, Board of Ed. Etc.

2) Lawrence Road Park (57 Acres)

Strengths:

- Flat land
- Prox. to many houses with connecting sidewalks
- Trails
- Picnic area
- Pond
- Parking area

Weaknesses:

- Not an active Park
- To remote and wet on the north end beyond the pond
- Not enough cleared space

Enhancements:

- Clear more of the invasive plants and trees
- Prepare a field for rec use
- Gazebo by the pond

This park has its own master plan and is one of the parks that is underutilized and there is a large amount of town residents that would be able to use the park if it was built up according to the master plan. This is one of the only parks in that area for residents.

Report of Council Liaison: None

OSTF: None

Report of the B of E Liaison: Designs are out for the Phase II project for Eli Terry and PRS schools. Preliminary thinking is that a large gym may be proposed in Phase 3, Pleasant Valley.

Report of Parks and Rec. Director:

Ellsworth Gym Floor will be resurfaced this fall with permanent Pickle Ball lines placed on the floor this weekend

The Rec Dept. is in Wapping School. There will be an Open House on Saturday November 18th, 2017 from 10-2 pm. Ray asks that all members try and see the new building. There are still many areas that need to be addressed. He is setting the open house up to show residents that other groups are using the building and it's not just the Parks & Rec. Dept.

SWLL Complex: Concrete pads are complete for the Softball Field bleachers.

Rye St. Park: Parks Dept. prepped nine fields for a 46 team SWSC tournament.

John said Target was a sponsor and they complimented on how great the facility was set up for the games. Congrats to the Parks Crew.

Veterans Day Ceremony: November 11 at 11 am at VMP

Bark Park: 10 year anniversary is Sunday Nov. 19th from 10-12.

Meeting adjourned 9:25 pm

Next Meeting: 7:30pm December 13th, 2017

Respectfully Submitted

George S. Caye

