

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
November 13, 2019

Meeting called to order: 7:30pm.

Commissioners in Attendance: George Caye, Katie Graham, Ritu Goel, Mike Kelly, Mindy Lewis, Bill Nowak, Renee Powell, Dan Rezende, John Pelkey, and Michael LeBlanc.

Also in Attendance: Ray Favreau, John Caldwell, and Kerry Macchi

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by George, and seconded by Renee to approve the September 11th minutes. Passed unanimously

Public Input: None present.

Special Reports: Ray provided an update on the EEE Mosquito problem that the town faced earlier this fall. All the parks were closed at 5:30 pm to reduce the threat after dusk. The Parks crew treated the standing water on town properties, and provided residents with a treatment solution for any standing water on their personal properties as well. It was determined on October 25th that the risk of EEE transmission from mosquitos was reduced, and the ban on outdoor activities was lifted. Ray mentioned that besides the sports groups being affected, the department also had to cancel many popular outdoor activities that were planned. In the future, the Parks and Rec department is planning to treat our outdoor spaces earlier in the season in an effort to kill the larvae and prevent having as many mosquitos.

Master Plan update- Ray went over some of the additions that he would like to add to the Master Plan. These additions include:

- Making the Barton property more “biker friendly”
- Add six different grant sites to the list of potential resources
- Address the decline in youth sports participation vs. rise in population
- Finding a location for “Ultimate” or disc golf.
- Looking into the ADA accessibility across our programs and facilities
- E-sports/gaming rooms
- Synthetic ice for skating outdoors
- Ninja Warrior type playgrounds

Report of Council Liaison: None due to the absence of the liaison.

OSTF: George reported that at the last meeting, they discussed the property at 1335 Ellington Road. The town would like to purchase this property, as it would be a great additional entrance on the opposite side of Wapping Park.

Report of the B of E Liaison: None due to the absence of the liaison.

Report of Parks and Rec. Director: The Nevers Park Restroom Facility is 100% complete, and is unlocked from dawn until dusk every day. It was a very well received addition to Nevers Park, and another great partnership with the Rotary Club. The Wapping Cafeteria/Banquet Hall is 99% complete, with only minor additions left to complete. Ray is excited to offer rentals, hopefully beginning in the new year. Phase II of the Skate Park is now complete and Ray is expecting it to be open for use within the next week.

Discussion Topic: Capital Improvement Projects Budget 2020-2021 Update:

- Asking for \$1 million for the rebuilding of Wapping Tennis Courts or money to replace the fencing and lights.
- \$300k to pull utilities into the Barton Property
- \$150k to repair the road that leads to the Rotary Pavilion

Other updates:

- Successfully brought water to the property for the Deming Street Community Gardens.
- The “Caught Being Kind” initiative took off and we have delivered over 180 heart lawn signs.
- Our indoor trick-or-treating event “Halloween Hullabaloo” saw over 1,000 guests and was a great success. It was held as a result of having to cancel some of the outdoor events due to the EEE evening curfew.

Other Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm – motion made by Mike Kelly and seconded by Renee Powell- passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: December 11, 2019

Respectfully Submitted – Kerry Macchi, Administrative Secretary