

Park and Recreation Commission- Special Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting

November 9, 2020

Meeting called to order: 7:30pm.

Commissioners in Attendance: George Caye, Genevieve Coursey, Ritu Goel, Michael Kelly, James Hennessey, Michael LeBlanc, Toby Lewis, Bill Nowak, Renee Powell, and John Pelkey.

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Renee and seconded by Mike to approve the October 14th minutes. Passed unanimously.

Public Input: None present

Report of Council Liaison: Councilor Evans did not have anything to report. Mike Kelly thanked her for getting the ball rolling on the naming of the roadway in honor of Al Larson. She did also mention that there were discussions at the Town Council meeting about the placement of the sign, and Ray confirmed that it would be placed away from the memorial wall and flagpoles.

Special Reports: Master Plan Update: Mr. Favreau is working on sending out a digital copy of the Master Plan by the end of the week. There was a lot of weeding through duplicate documents to make sure we had the most recent copy to pass along. There won't be many changes to make, just a final look before we can finalize the document to send to council.

Officer Elections: at the last meeting we held elections for new officers, and Michael LeBlanc was voted in as Secretary. After the meeting, it was confirmed that since he is not a regular member, but an alternate, he could not hold this position. Mr. Hennessey then nominated Ms. Coursey for the position of Secretary, and Ms. Goel seconded the nomination. Naming Ms. Genevieve Coursey as the Secretary for the Park and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

OSTF: Mr. Caye reported that at the last meeting, they discussed the property at 50 Windshire Drive. The owner would like to sell this property to the town, as it abuts other properties owned by the town, including Nevers Park, and would connect Windshire Drive to Andreis Trail. It is a 3.1-acre property that is landlocked and not able to be built on. If they can obtain a right price, they will recommend to the town that it be purchased.

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

Report of Parks and Rec. Director: Ray Favreau, Director of Parks and Recreation provided updates on the following:

- With the rollout of the Governors new mandate to revert back to a modified phase 2.1, a few of our programs had to be cancelled because we already had more participants registered than we are allowed to have in one space.
- The restroom facility at Nevers park will be closed again. It was briefly opened to accommodate sport groups at Nevers, but with the mandate and the conclusion of the fall sports season, it will be closed again until further notice.
- Ray and John have a meeting next week with a few town council members regarding the fencing around the Boundless Playground.

Discussion Topic: By-laws were sent out for review after the last meeting. The commission discussed changing the start time of the meeting, but it was determined that 7:30pm was best as is. I was also clarified that if a commissioner missed 3 or more consecutive regular meetings, they would be contacted to no longer be a member of the commission.

Other Business: Capital Improvement Projects discussion: It was discussed at the last meeting to start thinking about what projects the Commission wanted Ray to bring forward to the Capital Improvement budget meeting. A few different options were pulled from the current Master Plan, discussions from the public input section of PARC meetings, and various other resources. The commission was asked to weigh in on the priority of all the options. The following list was determined in agreement by the Commission:

1. Permanent storage facility for Parks and Recreation

2. Repurposing the tennis courts at Rye Street Park for pickle ball and deck hockey
3. Skate park lighting
4. Pull utilities into the John J. Mitchell Fairgrounds

SWW&WW: No reports

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

Next Meeting: December 9, 2020

Respectfully Submitted – Kerry Macchi, Administrative Secretary