

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes of the Meeting

April 14, 2021

Meeting called to order: 7:32pm.

Commissioners in Attendance: George Caye, Genevieve Coursey, Ritu Goel, James Hennessey, Toby Lewis, William Nowak, and Renee Powell

Also in Attendance: Erica Evans, Molly Keays, John Caldwell, and Kerry Macchi

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Bill Nowak and seconded by George Caye to approve the January 13th minutes. Passed unanimously.

Public Input: None present

Report of Council Liaison: Erica Evans shared with the commission that the council is in the thick of budget season, and they look forward to hearing from the Parks and Recreation department next week.

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

Special Reports: Molly went over the final look of the Master Plan. It was discussed that the Commission had already viewed a majority of the document that was sent to them via email. The only things that they did not view were the conclusion and the appendix. There were issues with sharing the screen so the commission asked if it could be read out loud. No one had anything to discuss following the reading. George Caye made a motion to approve the 2020 Master Plan. Bill Nowak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OSTF: George Caye shared that they discussed the following properties at the last meeting:

- The lawn in front of the firehouse on Sullivan Avenue has recently sold.
- The house at 1355 Ellington Road is down along with the outbuilding, and also the outbuildings at the Priest Farmhouse.
- They discussed the possibility of combining SWALPAC and OSTF.

Report of Parks and Rec. Director: Molly Keays, Director of Parks and Recreation provided updates on the following:

- Discussed the re-opening plans for the Wapping Parks and Rec building as well as the facilities.
- The department is still monitoring the aquatics guidelines to determine schedules for VMP.
- We are starting back up with events, with the Fishing Derby coming up on 4/17/21
- Met with the engineers for the Cross Town Trail. They went over some of the location details and what the next steps will be.
- C.I.P- Molly and John are currently working on the 2021-22 proposal which will include the Rye Street tennis court repurposing.
- The Showmobile was ordered in March and will be available to use this summer for the Summer Concert Series.
- Egg Scramble was a success with over 600 eggs hidden in the various parks. Winning eggs could be turned in for prizes at the walk-up window at Wapping.
- Farmers' Market will now be run by the Parks and Rec Department. Some final details are being worked out before releasing information.

John Caldwell, Superintendent of Parks provided updates on the following:

- Tobacco Valley Fliers have officially moved to the John J. Mitchell Fairgrounds. John is also toying with the idea of moving the cricket pitch.
- All the athletic fields in town are ready to be used for the Spring sports seasons.
- The tree budget for the town is mostly used with about \$26,000 of it has been used to clean up trees in the open spaces in town.
- The crew repaired the swale behind the new Eli Terry building.
- Pool covers at VMP are being removed next week.

- Wapping Park is gaining another parking lot on the Ellington Road side where the house was taken down. They are looking into making it a little larger to make turning around a bit easier.

Discussion Topic: Mr. Lewis asked if there was any update with the Willowbrook property. John said that there is no town involvement at this time. They might be looking to re-open the restaurant, but the golf course is past repair. He also asked if Ms. Keays knew any possible revenue projections. She said not at this time, as things are still being determined as far as numbers. We will know more next month.

Other Business: Mr. Nowak asked about any recreation opportunities because of the open spaces there. Molly shared that as far as programming goes, we will still host our summer concert series there.

SWW&WW: No reports

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm – motion made by George Caye and seconded by Dan Rezende- passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: May 12, 2021

Respectfully Submitted – Kerry Macchi, Administrative Secretary