

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes of the Meeting

July 14, 2021

Meeting called to order: 7:48pm.

Commissioners in Attendance: George Caye, Genevieve Coursey, Michael Kelly, James Hennessey, Toby Lewis, and Renee Powell

Also in Attendance: Molly Keays, Jennifer Filer, John Caldwell, and Kerry Macchi

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Mike Kelly and seconded by George Caye to approve the June 9th minutes. Passed unanimously.

Public Input: None present

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

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

OSTF: George Caye reported at the last meeting they discussed the property at 155 Griffin Road, otherwise known as the Wagon Shed Nursery. It is an appealing piece of land, as it abuts Rye Street Park. The task force voted to have the Town Manager to find out some more information.

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

- Molly welcomed the new Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, Jennifer Filer, who was present at the meeting.
- The updated mask policy for all town buildings is that masks are not required for vaccinated people, and are strongly recommended for un-vaccinated people. We are moving forward with our plans for all camp staff and campers to wear masks while inside the building, even if some of the staff are vaccinated.
- The RFP process for the Wapping tennis Courts and Veterans' Memorial Park pool is complete. The bids came in higher than what the budgeted amounts are for, so they are reassessing the projects.
- Pickleball/Dek hockey courts are up next on the list. The storms started the project, with many trees coming down on the fencing surrounding the existing courts.
- Our summer programs and events are going very well so far.

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

- Storm cleanup update: John thanked the Parks and Public Works department for all their work over the last few weeks with the tree cleanup. Rye Street Park took a lot of damage, with over 40 trees down and the mountain bike trails destroyed. The storm cleanup has also been taking them away from their other regular duties, so they are working through that.
- High School stadium turf update: The Board of Education came up with the money for the infill, but the parks crew will have to do the labor. They will be cutting and piecing together some other parts of the turf so it is more seamless.

Discussion Topic: Toby discussed with the commission whether or not there was a scope to the charter specifically for the Park and Rec commission. Mike thought it was a good idea for us to look at a charter to see what the responsibilities of the commission are. Jamie suggested the first step would be to talk to the town attorney to see if we can look at that document, and if there is no document, ask if we are able to come up with one.

Other Business: None

SWW&WW: Meeting was held on July 7th. The engineer with Anchor went over some updates for the Cross-Town Trail design. They are still evaluating some of the details and decided now would be a good time to gather feedback from the community and also look into other ways funding may be available. Mike Kelly asked what the cost of maintenance would be over the years. John said he hopes they use a hard surface so they aren't constantly paying to upkeep the material. It will also last longer because there won't be vehicles on it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm – motion made by Jamie Hennessey and seconded by Bill Nowak- passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: September 8, 2021

Respectfully Submitted – Kerry Macchi, Administrative Secretary