

Town of Auburn
Parks and Recreation Commission
July 11, 2023
6:00 pm
Severance School Community Center

Commissioners Present: Margie McEvoy, Vice Chairman; Mary Royer; Pat Kelly; Tom Carroll, Selectman Representative.

Others Present: Amy Lachance, P&R Coordinator; Steve Davis, Facilities Maintenance

Facilities Maintenance Position- The position was filled by Steve Davis. Steve has been a member of the Auburn Fire Department for many years and a frequent volunteer at Parks & Rec events. Because Steve is retired, due to the NH Retirement regulations, he cannot work more than an average of 26 hours a week (between P&R and AFD). We'll be monitoring that and don't see it being a problem. He started working a few weeks ago and has already started checking projects off the list and finding new issues to address. Steve is going to be a great help to the department.

Wayne Eddows Parking Lot Project- Project is complete and all is going well.

Completed, Ongoing and Upcoming Programs- The summer first concert was a success with around 200 people attending. Many of our summer programs at Severance are a little slower as many people are either away or choosing outside activities. Camp Adventure starts on Monday and lasts for 3 weeks. The program is full with a waiting lists in all 3 weeks. The movie at Tower Hill was a success as well but not a large turnout of Auburn residents (mostly people from Tower Hill). The event was all funded by Tower Hill Church. We have 2 more movies coming up this summer. And the Senior BBQ is set for Saturday, August 19 with a country western theme.

Personalized Brick Sales- As it has been requested by multiple families, we'd like to offer personalized bricks at the Circle of Fun again this year. The company that was used in the past is no longer in business so we'll try a new company called thatsmybrick.com. They offer free delivery along with a free website so people can order online. We'll charge around \$55 per brick which is similar to the past with covers the cost of the brick, installation and credit card fees. We'll start orders now, end orders in September and hope to install them in October.

Helen Hiltz Community Service Award- We'll start accepting nominations for the 2023 award now through September. We'll decide at the October meeting and present the award by the end of the year. People can submit nominations online through the link on the website or pick up a paper form at the Town Hall.

MOU with ASC/Little League and the Town- Because there will be leadership changes in the Auburn Soccer Club with Pat retiring, and expected turnover with Little League in the upcoming years, it's time to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between each organization and the Town. Amy will meet with Brian

D'Amelio and Zach to develop one for Little League to bring before the Commission. She will also draft one for ASC and send it to Pat for revision. That too will be brought before the Commission.

Budget 2024-Work started on the 2024 budget. This will be due in August. While we went line by line, there was discussion about the following topics.

- **Recreation Senior Trips**- To help with the demand for the senior trips, it was proposed that we offer each trip twice to accommodate all who want to attend. This past trip filled up in 24 hours with a 32 person waiting list. While doubling the trip expenses, the fee will go up to \$25 per person from \$20 per person.
- **Recreation Family Events**- The music licensing expense, which was blended into the concert expense, was moved out and increased. Last year we budgeted \$2500 for concerts and licensing. In 2024, we budgeted \$2000 for concerts and \$1000 for licenses. Annually we pay for music licensing for not only the concerts but any time we have a DJ at any event. The duck race and Auburn night expenses have increased from \$10,000 to \$12,000 which includes petting zoo, rock wall, band and fireworks.
- **Recreation General Maintenance**- Add \$2500 for playground chips at Wayne Eddows and Circle of Fun. We didn't get any for 2023. Add in additional tick spraying in the spring at Wayne Eddows. Amy will get the price from Dragon.
- **Recreation Severance Utilities**- Added \$200 for fire alarm monitoring, \$600 for septic system pumping and \$200 for water which were not in the 2023 budget. Both electricity and propane heat will be decreased from 2023. Amy will monitor it another month and see what a good estimate will be based on the expenses so far.
- **Recreation Severance Internet**- Increase to \$2100 from \$1700
- **Recreation Severance Janitorial**- Increase to \$3100 from \$3000
- **Recreation Improvements**- There was discussion on projects for 2024. We discussed tearing up the rinks and replacing them with smooth, non-puddling pickleball courts, repairing the walkway at Appletree park and work on any clubhouse repairs needed at Wayne Eddows.

The 2024 budget will be finalized at the August meeting

Facilities Update- Steve has spent a good amount of time cleaning up Appletree. He's checking out all facilities and getting familiar with all that needs to be done. Pat asked that Steve check to be sure all goals are upright and that sandbags are on each goal to be sure they weigh it down.

Auburn Soccer Club Update- ASC did some repairs to the soccer field irrigation system. A parent donated their time and materials to make these repairs. Pat's replacement at ASC is Rory Hurl as President Elect. Pat will step down at the end of this year. Tyler Butler will take over as Secretary. Pat will remain on the Commission as an ASC representative until his term is up. Congratulations Pat!

A question came into Parks & Rec regarding ASC making cuts in their program. Pat responded that ASC is a travel league, not a rec league. There are roster size limits within the state soccer association that they must follow, as well as practical considerations of balancing roster sizes and accommodating various ability levels. ASC uses third party, professional coach evaluations along with feedback from parent volunteers to fill each roster and strives to create opportunities for as many kids as reasonably possible. There are a few

occasions when a limit is reached and there is not another team within their age to offer them a spot and cuts need to be made.

When a coach can handle extra players, ASC has offered a “practice player” position at reduced or no cost, so the child can practice with the team and be available to be added to game rosters should the opportunity develop.

Review of Minutes- *Ms. Royer motioned to accept the minutes of May 2, 2023, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Next Meeting-. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, August 2, 2023**, at 6:00 pm at the Severance School Community Center.

Mr. Carroll motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Royer seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.