Parks and Recreation Meeting 11/29/2015

In attendance were Mr. Dave Nye, chairman, Mrs. Lisa Canavan, commissioner, Ms. Margie McEvoy, commissioner, Mr. Alex Eisman, commissioner, Mr. Zach Eaton, alternate commissioner, Mr. Pat Kelly, alternate commissioner, Helen Hiltz was recording minutes.

This was a special meeting called to review the Pricilla Lane project and the proposal to remove the Recreational Improvements line item from the P&R budget prior to the next BOS meeting. The Pricilla Lane Athletic Fields conceptual layout that was done by Stantec Inc. on 5/24/2013 was reviewed by all. Mr. Nye noted that the foot bridge in the drawing was planned as phase II of the plan. The question was asked if the long term plan was still the same. Mr. Nye stated that phase I was the only part of plan that has been approved and is in progress. The scope of phase 1 was primarily centered on the parking area. The new town "no parking" (on the streets) ordinance added to the urgency of adding more parking for town events, family days, field days etc. at the complex. While the costs of phase I increased due to scale issues on the original plan given for estimate, guardrail requirements etc. the costs will still come in below what was originally thought. There were donated materials and donated labor hours. All in attendance favored continuing with the original project in several stages. The conceptual layout shows the future potential for the property. One regulation size soccer field is what is thought to be practical. Mr. Zack Eaton asked if we thought that the project, including the soccer field, would be completed in the next couple of years. If that was the thought, he suggested minimizing the fertilization and rework of the present soccer field at Wayne Eddows. Mr. Nye anticipated that it may take a few years to get the entire project approved and monies allocated to finish the project. He was not sure if the approvals to continue with the project would be given or the monies allocated. The costs for the other phases of the project could not be projected as the engineering is not yet done.

Mr. Nye explained the suggestion that the BOS made to remove the Recreation Improvements budget line item from the Parks and Recreation operating budget and put that line item in the town budget. He is very comfortable with this suggestion. Mr. Nye stated that he felt that the BOS will still have the best interest of the town in mind with future improvements and the Parks and Recreation operating budget will be representative of the costs for the day to day maintenance. The BOS suggested that costs such as fence repair, adding fence toppers, etc. be included in the maintenance line item. They also suggested that we add a full fertilization/field maintenance program and the cost for a new sprinkler system that is tied in to the artisan well to our maintenance budget line item for this upcoming year.

Mr. Nye will attend next week's BOS meeting to discuss the future plans for the Pricilla Lane project and to revise and add the items suggested to maintenance line item. He will then make the proposed budget increases to the Budget Committee at their next meeting.