

Parks and Recreation Meeting 12/14/2015

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. Jim Headd, Selectman, and Mr. Mike Dobmier, facilities. Helen Hiltz was recording minutes.

2016 Budget:

Program Manager, Helen Hiltz, reviewed the budgetary efforts that Chairman Nye and she had been a part of for the last several weeks. The Board of Selectmen had asked that the Parks and Recreation review their budget and add an expanded fertilization program and work on the sprinkler system in our maintenance budget. There was also a proposal to remove the Recreation Improvement budget line item from the Recreation budget and move it to the town capital expenditure line item, similar to the road construction budget line item. This would result in the Parks and Recreation budget becoming an operational budget and capital expenditures/improvements being decided upon with input from the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Board of Selectmen. The general maintenance budget increase proposal was approved by the BOS and the Budget Committee at \$21,500, bringing the total operational budget (minus salaries) to \$66,550. The Recreation Improvement line item was decreased to \$41,500 and was moved to the town capital expenditure account. Items such as dugouts would have to be completed as funds were available.

It was noted that options would need to be explored to allow the fields to recover after the early spring work is done. Mr. Zack Eaton asked why the school field was not being utilized for practices, saving play time on the town field and reducing the cost of transport to WE. Discussion also included if more practices could be held at the Safety Complex Field and some of the baseball fields. Mrs. Hiltz stated that there will need to be meetings with the school, Auburn Little League, Auburn Soccer Club and private organizations that utilize the fields in early 2016 to see what can be done to rotate usage.

Winter Carnival:

The winter carnival is scheduled for February 6th. Mr. Dobmier and Mr. Nye have been busy gathering brush and logs to insure that the bonfire is longer lasting. The boy scouts will be picking up Christmas trees as a fund raiser. Other trees will be picked up throughout town and residents will be asked to drop off trees at the Safety Complex instead of bringing them to the dump. Mr. Alex Eisman also has a portable fire pit that he has offered to the Parks and Recreation for the event to keep a smaller fire burning closer to the grill. Parks and Recreation will be purchasing the hamburgers and hot dogs and coffee. The Fire Department has offered to make the hot chocolate. Mrs. Hiltz has checked with a couple of DJ possibilities for the event and no one is available. She will continue to pursue options. Mrs. Hiltz will contact Mr. Mike Dross to confirm that the Highway Department can provide a sliding hill for the children. Weather and conditions permitting, the plans are to have a snowman making contest and other activities. Mrs. Hiltz will contact the Audubon Center to see if they would like to participate in the event and possibly offer snow shoe exhibit and a possible race.

June 4th – beginning of summer event:

The June 4th event will be held at Wayne Eddows Field. Mr. Zack Eaton stated that there will be baseball games/practices taking place on that day. The Committee noted that a full discussion about choosing a date for the event was held a couple of months ago. The Committee discussed several options, taking into consideration field days, graduations, etc. and June 4th was decided upon as the most viable option. Mr. Eaton would talk to Mr. D'amelio to inform him of the scheduling of the event. Mrs. Hiltz will follow up as well to insure that all sports entities are aware of the fact that the fields would not be available from 6:00 PM on June 3rd until the late afternoon of June 5th.

It was decided that a separate subcommittee would be formed to plan the event. There is not enough time available to discuss the details of the event at regular meeting.

Other New Business:

Mr. Dave Nye will need to contact John O'Neil, Manchester Water Works, to get approval to do work on the gazebo in 2016.

Mr. Nye did contact Ray Racicott to see if he was still interested in moving the memorial stone that is currently in front of the Town Hall to Bi-Centennial Park. Mr. Racicott stated that he will move the stone in the spring. Mr. Nye will keep his eyes open for a matching rock to place in Bi-Centennial Park in preparation of memorializing future veterans.

Mr. Nye will need to get pricing for the guardrails at the Pricilla Lane project.

Auburn Little League:

Mr. Zack Eaton stated that the Auburn Little League agreed to cover any overruns, if needed, when the Parks and Recreation does the fence toppers.

Auburn Soccer Club:

Mrs. Hiltz stated that the field paint for the soccer fields had been ordered. Approximate cost is \$1,000.

Auburn Moms Club:

Mr. Mike Dobmier and Mrs. McEvoy asked if the AMC was still selling bricks at the playground. Mrs. Canavan will talk to Mrs. Shula in the next few days and will ask the question.

Facilities:

Mrs. Hiltz stated that she has purchased 25 tent stakes and put them in the desk at the fire house.

Mr. Dobmier stated that the skating rink is cleaned and plugged.

Minutes:

Mr. Alex Eisman made a motion to accept the 10/12/2016 and the 10/29/2016 meeting minutes as written. Mrs. Lisa Canavan 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Mrs. Margie McEvoy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Alex Eisman 2nd the motion. All in favor.

