

Town of Auburn
Parks and Recreation Commission
February 4, 2021
(Rescheduled from February 2, 2021 due to snow)
Auburn Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Patty Rousseau, Chairman; Margie McEvoy, Vice Chairman; Dave Oliveira; Mary Royer; Pat Kelly; Zach Eaton; Todd Bedard, Selectman

Others Present: Amy Lachance, P&R Coordinator; Mike O'Callaghan, Facilities Maintenance; Mort Alling; Tom Zapor; Shawn Matte

Helen Hiltz Community Service Award- The 2020 Helen Hiltz Community Service Award was presented to Mort Alling. Tom Zapor and Mort Alling. ... "This past year, when the town, as well as the world, was sent into their homes and required to social distance from their friends and neighbors, these 3 Auburn citizens jumped into action and brought smiles to many Auburn families. They started the birthday parades throughout town and gathered residents to safely celebrate these special occasions. What could have turned into another typical day at home became an extra special memory that these kids and their families will never forget.

But it doesn't stop there for these 3. When it looked like Easter celebrations were going to be cancelled, they started the Easter Bunny parade throughout town. They volunteered at the drive-in Senior BBQ, Trunk or drive-thru Treat and the PTA's outdoor spooky walk. Whenever help was needed for an event, they were there without hesitation. ..."

Thank you and congratulations to Mort, Shawn and Tom!!

Budget 2021- The 2021 passed through the Budget Committee on December 10th. To finish the budget process, the Town needs to approve it at the town election on Tuesday, March 9th. The fertilizer treatments with Mainly Grass have been prepaid for the year.

Senior Dinner- Mary and Margie reported they are all set and ready to go for Saturday, February 13th. There are 59 residents planning to attend.

Ski Programs- Pat's Peak program ended last week, and the McIntyre program has one more week to go. The program was a success given the situation. There was no bus transportation this year so the attendance for both programs were around 30 kids each when it's usually at least double that amount. Thanks to Mark Comeau and Corey Joy for volunteering to run those programs.

Galentine's Day- This new "girls' night out" program that was scheduled for Friday, February 12th at Chunky's has been cancelled. A minimum of 20 people was needed, and we only had 3. Will try this again after covid.

Esports League- We held our first season of esports through GG Leagues. We partnered with 15 other recreation departments around the state to form the NH League. It is a 6-week program and there are 20 families to have been participating. We'll be starting sign ups for the spring league soon.

Wayne Eddows Field Use- Amy suggested to again update the Field Use Agreement form. With so many people requesting field space and the Town, as well as ASC and LL investing so many time and money into the fields, it seemed right to charge everyone who uses field space.

Currently there is no charge for groups that had 65% resident participation. This change would eliminate that. It would be a flat fee of \$25 per hour and an additional \$25 (single fee) to use the lights. There would be an exception for

summer camps who would be using the field all day/5 days a week. Groups that run summer camps would need to contact P&R for more details.

Pat commented that in discussions with the summer soccer camps, their use is dependent on the field's condition. With last summer's drought, the season ended with the grass in rough shape. If it does not recover this spring, summer camps will need to go to the Safety Complex field as a backup.

The fee range for summer camp use at Wayne Eddows will be between \$300-\$500 per week (5 consecutive weekdays, daytime use only of approximately 8 am-4 pm). For at least this summer, we will allow \$200 to returning camps for the week use. The Commission will revisit this at the end of the summer.

Mr. Bedard motioned to accept the changes to the Parks and Recreation Facility Use Agreement as presented. Ms. Royer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sprinkler System- Dave also reported that he will be meeting a sprinkler company to look at our current system and see what repairs will be needed. There is \$900 in the 2021 for sprinkler repairs and winterizing. If larger repairs are needed, it can be added to the 2022 budget. Also, Zach reported that the Little League will be doing some work on the sprinklers on the majors field. That will be paid for by the Little League.

Old Home Day/Duck Day- Over the last few months, Amy has had meeting with both Melissa from the PD and Pat Clement & Nancy Mayland from AHA. Given the current situation with Covid, it's looking unlikely that June would be a safe time to plan a large event such as Old Home Day.

In the meeting with Melissa, she said that the PD and FD wanted to go back to their original plan of holding a "Safety Day" in June instead of Old Home Day. The AHA was very open to P&R joining them in their event (It is still the AHA's fundraising event and we will just be part of it among other groups). As we planned last year, we will set up the rock wall, petting zoo, mini golf and ax throwing in the road, toward the 4-way intersection. The deposits were already paid out of the 2020 budget. The Duck Race is scheduled for Saturday, September 11th.

In addition to our participating in the Duck Race event, we will host a "Duck Weekend Kick Off Event" at Wayne Eddows the night before, September 10th. Since we have already paid the deposit on the fireworks, this is the only location that will work to shoot them off. We will have a band, food/food trucks and fireworks... keeping the event simple but fun. The AHA will also sell ducks there. ASC and LL will not schedule any games that night and until the afternoon on Saturday to allow time for cleanup. Zach has requested we hire the landscapers to come the following day with their baggers to clean up the firework debris left on the field after the event.

Town-Wide Yard Sale- After discussion, it was decided that the Town-Wide Yard Sale will continue this year on Saturday, May 15th.

Spring Egg Hunt- Amy is planning a Spring Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3rd. One would be on the fields at Wayne Eddows, with small groups at prescheduled times, moving from field to field to collect eggs and receive a craft kit to go at the end. The second option would be a driving hunt with eggs at various locations in town that are handed out in their cars. It will depend on the field conditions and covid.

Facility Updates- Mike has been working on keeping the skating rinks clear. Even though the ice is not in great condition, people have still been using them. He has also been checking the parks and Wayne Eddows every week and especially after storms.

Zach has already replaced the broken piece from the yellow gate. Mike and the FD will install their new locks.

The timer for the parking lot timer has been stuck so the lights were left on overnight. There were calls to the Town Hall concerning the lights on. Zach has turned off the power to the lights in early December. Mike will repair/replace the timer in the spring.

Security Cameras at Wayne Eddows- There was discussion about the new security cameras at Wayne Eddows that were installed in the late fall. A truck drove around the parking lot and tore it up. Dave checked the cameras and could not see the license plate numbers. He questioned if the camera company guaranteed that we would be able to see license plates from the location they were placed. Todd discussed moving the camera ourselves to see if we will be able to see license plate numbers more clearly.

Little League- Little League is preparing for a normal season. Games will start before April vacation with Opening Day being held on May 8th. Registration will be open over the next week (usually the second week of February).

Auburn Soccer Club- ASC is also preparing for a normal season with registration starting soon. Games will begin the weekend of April 24th. Amy will arrange the Tot Soccer with the SNHU coaches to be held on Saturdays at 10:00 am.

Review of Minutes- *Ms. McEvoy motioned to accept the minutes of December 1, 2020 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. Mr. Oliveira seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall.