

**Town of Auburn
Parks and Recreation Commission
April 6, 2021
Auburn Town Hall**

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

Others Present: Amy Lachance, P&R Coordinator; Mike O'Callaghan, Facilities Maintenance

Swearing In Commissioners- Town Clerk, Kathleen Sylvia swore in Zach Eaton, Margie McEvoy and Mary Royer to continue for another 3 year term. Pat Kelly was also sworn in the remaining 2 years of his term.

2021 Budget Update- In the Recreation General Maintenance line, 41% of that line has already been spent because all the lawn treatments for Wayne Eddows fields and the Safety Complex field were prepaid for the season. Dave asked if Matt Plaza will be returning this season or if landscaping will go out to bid again this year. Todd replied that Matt Plaza will continue for the year. Everyone was happy with his work throughout 2020.

Storage Building Update- Todd reported the updates. The BOS had the town engineers to put together the documents for the bid which basically is a 20 x 60 building, 3 garage doors, 1 bay blocked off for the Police, electricity with 2 entry ways (1 for Parks & Rec and 1 for APD). Once it is ready, it will be posted on the Auburn Community Facebook Page and the Town website. On April 19th, a member of the BOS will be meeting at the storage building location along with any interested contractors to have a pre-bid meeting to answer any questions. Bids will most likely be in by early May.

Amy asked if the Fire Department will be using this building as well as P&R and the Police. Todd replied that there is no agreement for them to use the building at this time.

Severance School Update- An engineer will be inspecting the Severance School on Monday to be sure any issues with the building are identified before any agreements are made and renovation begins. The Town and Manchester Water Works are still in discussion over this and other projects. More information to come.

Completed & Upcoming Programs- A list of completed events and programs from the beginning of the year were included with the agenda.

The Traveling Egg Hunt was this past weekend and was a success with 83 children registered. Next year we hope to have an egg hunt in a field instead of in their cars.

It is still unknown exactly how *Camp Adventure* will run this year. State covid guidelines state that field trips should be avoided. If that does not change shortly, plan B would be to run camp both at Wayne Eddows field on nice weather days and at AVS on rainy days. Still waiting for permission from AVS for the gym and cafeteria use for these weeks. If the decision is to go with plan B, parents will be given the option to withdraw from the program with a full refund.

For the *Auburn Day kick off event* at Wayne Eddows, the fireworks company said they could use the "second parking lot" to shoot off the fireworks. Everything will need to be confirmed with the Fire Chief but if that works, it will help keep a lot of the mess that comes with fireworks off the fields. Amy will still get Matt Plaza to do a clean up the following morning. We will also need to discuss limiting the fireworks to Auburn residents only and what the best way to do that would be. With so many other towns still not holding firework events, there may be a lot of people interested from other town and we do not want to over crowd the event. Let's all think about possible solutions so that it's fair and easy for the residents of Auburn to participate.

Parks & Rec Truck- The most recent issue with the truck is that it will not go above 25/30 mph. The transmission needs to be fixed that will cost a minimum of \$1800. After other repairs this winter, it was decided not to put any more money into it. The Police department purchased a new cruiser and we will get their old SUV. (It arrived today.) It may not be ideal because it is an SUV and not a truck but the price was right. It's worth giving a try at least through the year to see if we should budget for a new truck in 2022 or 2023 or continue using "expired" police SUVs. The old P&R truck will be sold at auction.

Facilities Update- Mike reported that he checked out the building at Wayne Eddows for repairs. Zach has been working to get a quote for the job. Mike & Zach also discussed the gate for the fence at the 90' diamond.

Without the truck, it will be more difficult and time consuming to pick up trash throughout town. This year we will try "carry in/carry out" and not put out the trash cans. Zach suggested that looking into ABI to remove the trash from the park if needed.

Little League- At this time, the fields are still wet but practices for the school have started in the dry areas. Field clean up is this coming Saturday. Practices start the following week with games shortly after.

Auburn Soccer Club- Games are starting April 24th and are finalizing their schedules now. Until that time, ASC will use the Safety Complex field to give the WE soccer field more time to dry out.

Review of Minutes- *Mr. Eaton motioned to accept the minutes of February 4, 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. Ms. Royer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Commissioner Resignation- Patty Rousseau submitted her resignation for the Commission. She will be moving out of Auburn and can no longer serve on a town board.

Jennifer Strabone submitted an application to join the Commission in December 2019. Amy will pass along her application to the Board of Selectmen to fill the position.

Patty nominated Zach Eaton to take her place as Chairman of the P&R Commission. After much discussion, Zach agreed to serve in that position.

Ms. McEvoy motioned to appoint Mr. Eaton as Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Mr. Eaton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Location TBD.