

Town of Auburn
Parks and Recreation Commission
October 26, 2021
(Rescheduled from October 5, 2021)
6:00 pm
Auburn Safety Complex

Commissioners Present: Zach Eaton, Chairman; Margie McEvoy, Vice Chairman; Jennifer Strabone; Pat Kelly; Dave Oliveira; Todd Bedard, Selectman

Others Present: Amy Lachance, P&R Coordinator; Peter Boudreau

Appointment with the Commission- Peter Boudreau sent a letter to the Commission in September to establish a memorial for Jean Paul Peguri, "Coach JP" who passed away unexpected last year. He was one of the original members of the ASC and was a coach and mentor to the older players. While the original request was to name the soccer field after him, the request has been changed to a memorial bench at the soccer field. The requesting group will pay for the bench, maintaining it and all that goes with it. Mr. Boudreau will work with Amy on a plan for the bench and will then present it to the Commission for the final approval. Lots of ideas were discussed. Mr. Boudreau will return to the Commission in the new year.

2021 Budget Update – As we are finishing up the 2021 budget year, the following are a few projects that are coming up. *Senior Trips:* Amy has planned a December Senior trip as we had a late start to the trip season due to Covid. This will give the seniors 2 trips that is in the budget for 2021. *Soccer Program:* Pat has expenses coming up (nets and sandbags) as well as some receipts that need to be turned in for reimbursement. Some items that are needed are unavailable at this time such as field paint. *Fuel/Maintenance:* There is some maintenance items that need to be done by the end of the year. *General Maintenance:* The lights on the skating rinks/basketball courts need some work. The button near the parking lot is not working. Many electricians have been busy and not responding. Todd offered to look at it.

Storage Building Update- Building is done. Mike has moved everything out of the storage units and organized the building.

Severance School Update- Still in progress. The BOS are working on scheduling a meeting with Manchester Water Works. They will be discussing other projects around town in addition to the Severance School.

Dog Ordinance- Attached is the new dog ordinance that was voted on by the P&R Commission and the BOS. Signs have been posted at the Circle of Fun and Wayne Eddows.

A group of residents in the Sun Valley area have submitted a petition to the BOS regarding the dog ordinance and the Appletree park.

"We, the undersigned, are residents of the Apple Tree Park area. We respectfully request the BOS to exempt Apple Tree Park from the ordinance that prohibits dogs in Town parks. Apple Tree Park has very low usage and is mainly used by neighborhood residents who bring their dogs and children to the park. The neighborhood cleans up after their dogs. There is no unsolicited interaction between dogs and children. Thank you for your consideration of our request".

While the ordinance includes all parks and cemeteries in town, the signs are only posted at Circle of Fun, Wayne Eddows and both cemeteries where there have been problems with dogs. At this time, there have been no issues at the other locations and signs will not be posted unless that situation changes. The Commissioners will discuss this issue again at the December meeting.

Pat suggested we add more “no dogs per RSA...” signs at alternate entrances of Wayne Eddows. Amy will order a few more signs to have available. Little League and ASC post field information on their sites regarding no dogs at the fields. The new ordinance has been posted on the Parks and Rec webpage.

Completed & Upcoming Programs- The updated list of programs (both completed and upcoming) is included in the agenda packet. Some upcoming programs not listed are the December Senior Trip and the Auburn Shirt sale.

The Tree Lighting is coming up on November 28 with Jen Strabone running the event. Stephanie Murphy will be back to sing holiday tunes. The Grinch and Santa will both be there with the AFD driving them there.

2022 Ski Programs- The original plan for the ski programs was to increase each program (Pat’s Peak for middle schoolers and McIntyre for elementary) to 2 buses. With Covid still a concern and the number of skiers in each program, 2 buses were needed to spread out. However, with the bus driver shortage, currently, there aren’t any buses available for either program. We will still offer the programs but like last year, transportation will not be available. Registration will start early November.

Community Service Award- This is the time of year to start thinking about awarding a resident (or 2 or 3) the Helen Hiltz Community Service Award. Before the next meeting, please think of worthy recipients. Keep in mind that their contribution to recreation in Town is based on this year and not previous years. As requested, Amy will send a list of past recipients as well as a description of the award.

Portapotties - Portapotties are leaving the parks on Thursday. Zach and Pat both mentioned they still have games this weekend. Amy will check to see if it can be postponed a week. If that is possible, they will all be gone the first week in November.

Sprinkler System- Zach will schedule the sprinkler system to be closed out shortly. When there, he will ask him to check the system to see if any repairs are needed. Little League paid to repair the main line to the farm field which burst this year.

AVS Wayne Eddows Field Use- The AVS Athletic Director is requesting the use of the Wayne Eddows Soccer Field for an evening playoff game on Thursday (October 28). Pat’s concern is that with all the recent rain, the field may easily get chewed up. After discussion, Pat and Dave will assess the condition of the field in the morning and be in touch with the AVS Athletic Director to confirm.

Auburn Little League- The last games of the season is this weekend. This year there were 5 baseball teams and another 6 younger groups who played throughout the area. The facilities are in good shape. Field closing will be coming up someday in November with date TBD.

Auburn Soccer Club- Two teams are finishing up with playoffs this weekend.

Review of Minutes- *Ms. McEvoy motioned to accept the minutes of August 3, 2021, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. Ms. Oliveira seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Budget 2022- P&R will present our 2022 budget to the BOS on Monday, November 8 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. Once approved, we are next scheduled to meet with the Budget Committee on Thursday, November 18 also at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Bedard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Oliveira seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 7 at 6:00 pm. Location TBD.