

**Town of Auburn**  
**Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**April 5, 2022**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Auburn Safety Complex**

**Commissioners Present:** Zach Eaton, Chairman; Margie McEvoy, Vice Chairman; Jennifer Strabone; Pat Kelly; Dave Oliveira; Mary Royer; Tom Carroll, Board of Selectmen Representative

**Others Present:** Amy Lachance, P&R Coordinator; Bill Wood; Jackie Wood; Patrick Tufts; Chris Richmond; Peter Boudreau; Paul Therrien; Lyn Therrien

**Swearing In Commissioners**- Commissioners Patrick Kelly and David Oliveira were reappointed by the BOS for another 3-year term on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Their terms will expire in March of 2025. Selectman Tom Carroll swore them in to office with the administration of the oath.

**Little Free Library at the Circle of Fun**- Residents Bill and Jackie Wood proposed a “Little Free Library” to be installed at the Circle of Fun playground. They offered to build, install, register and care for this mini library. This 4x4 structure will be set in a post, approximately 3 feet high and hold 15 or so books.

*Mr. Kelly motioned to approve the installation of a “Little Free Library” at the Circle of Fun playground with Bill and Jackie Wood as the stewards of this library who will build, register and care for it. Ms. Royer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Hiltz Award Presentation**- Paul and Lyn Therrien were presented with the 2021 Helen Hiltz Community Service Award. It was through their excitement, guidance and persistence that Parks and Rec was able to open a pickleball court at the skating rinks. Once the court was ready and open, Paul and Lyn again took the lead and offered free lessons to the residents of Auburn. Initially 2 classes of “Pickleball with Paul & Lyn” were offered. Both were very well attended and soon there were many new Pickleball fans in town. Weekly, or as often as possible, Paul and Lyn would meet at the court and help any new players that may show up to play. They continued to share their love of the game with all they could. Congratulations Lyn and Paul.

**Memorial Bench at Wayne Eddows**- Peter Boudreau, along with Chris Richmond and Patrick Tufts, came to the Commission with plans for a memorial bench at the soccer field at Wayne Eddows. The selected a 10-foot green coated bench that would be permanently installed with a memorial plate. There was discussion on the best location to install this bench. It was determined that it would be best on the spectator side of the field, around mid-field and installed on a cement pad. Pat and Zach will meet this group at the soccer field on Saturday to select the best location.

*Mr. Kelly motioned to approve the installation of a memorial bench at the soccer field at Wayne Eddows by Mr. Boudreau and group pending a location and style approval by Mr. Eaton and Mr. Kelly. Mr. Boudreau’s group will purchase and install the bench. Ms. McEvoy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**2022 Budget Update** – The general maintenance line is 63% used because we paid Alliance for the full season of field treatment. So far, we’ve seen that many items that we’ve budgeted for this year have gone up significantly in price. We’ll need to keep close watch on spending this year. Rec Improvements is 50% used with the deposit was made on the light fixtures.

**Field Treatments 2022**- With prices increasing significantly this year, we chose to shop around for the best price for the field treatments for Wayne Eddows and the Safety Complex fields. Pat got estimates from Mainely Grass (\$7,930), Northpoint (\$12,435) and Alliance (\$7407.50). Alliance gave a 5% discount for full season pre-payment and \$1000

discount is we place their signs at each location. Alliance has been paid and their signs will go up on the fences near the entrances of each field.

**Softball Field Lights**- A deposit was paid for the light fixture from Wisconsin Lighting Labs. Zach has been trying to reach Tom Skeffington to let him know that the project is moving forward. He's also been reaching out the electrical company for a final price.

**Skating Rink Update**- It was a great season with the new rink system. It held water perfectly. AFD pumped out some of the water and the rest is slowly draining out. When Mike returns, he'll take care of putting it away. Volunteers will be needed to fold and move the liner since it's so big and heavy. Jen suggested some sort of ramp or stairs to get on the ice. That could also make it easier to bring a snowblower on the ice. Mike can work on that over the summer to be ready for next season.

**Completed Programs**- *The Senior Dinner* was postponed due to weather but ended up with 71 seniors picking up their turkey pot pie dinner. The event was very successful. *The Bunny Brunch* was this past weekend. Jen reported that this event was also very successful with 150 people in attendance. It was a simple program with breakfast, crafts at the tables and a visit with the bunny. The bunny's neck was exposed so we should purchase something to help cover it for next year.

**Upcoming Programs**- *Town-Wide Yard Sale* is coming up on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Registrations are slowly coming in. *Tot Soccer and Tiny Tot Soccer* have exploded. There are 30 Tiny Tots scheduled at 9:30 am with 2 instructors, 10 more Tiny Tots at 10:00 with 1 instructor along with 20 Tots at 10:00 with the other instructor. The Summer Concert schedule will be released this week.

**Field Use Fees for Summer Program at Wayne Eddows**- This summer, the only camp/program that is requesting the field use for a full week is FC Stars for their evening soccer clinic in August. In the past (other than last year), their field use fees have been waived in exchange for a discount to Auburn families. At the end of the season, FC Stars will report to Parks and Rec at the end of the program how many players participated in the program and how many were Auburn residents.

*Ms. Royer motioned to waive the fee for FC Stars for the use the Wayne Eddows soccer field for the week of their evening summer clinic in August in exchange for Auburn residents receiving a discount on registration. Ms. McEvoy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Policies**- A new Community Center Use Policy was drafted and will be discussed once the Severance School project is finalized. Amy made 2 suggestions to update the Department Vehicle Policy to change the words "Safety Complex (front lot) to Storage Building at 55B Eaton Hill Road and add Storage Building as a location to return the vehicle to after storms.

*Ms. Royer motioned to approve the changes to the Department Vehicle Policy. Ms. Strabone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Power Use at Wayne Eddows**- The Eversource invoice has shown that our power use has increased at least 4x over the last few months. It's unexpected because everything at Wayne Eddows (except the security system) is turn off for the winter. We'll see how the next invoice comes in and see what could possibly be on to cause such a dramatic increase.

**Trash Barrels/Dumpsters at Wayne Eddows**- Waste Management removed the trash cans and dumpster at Wayne Eddows with no notice. They donated the service about 20+ years ago which was only supposed to last for 2 years. Brian D'Amelio, President of the Little League, called WM and made arrangements for the dumpster and barrels to be returned. The fee will be \$1410.57 for the months of April through October. They are emptying the dumpster only so barrels need to be emptied into the dumpster. ABI was also contacted for a quote, but he is not taking commercial accounts.

The WM account is under Little League for now. There was discussion about splitting the fee between Little League, Soccer Club and Parks & Rec. For now, Little League will take care of everything to keep the process moving. We'll have discussion about possibly moving the account to the Town and how to split the fee. We'll want to decide all the details as we plan for the 2023 budget.

**Facilities Update-** Mike will be returning on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Scott and Rich from AVS did a great job clearing the snow at the Town Hall, Safety Complex and Library this winter while Mike was away.

**Auburn Little League-** Registrations and evaluations are complete and the season is ready to start. Field cleanup is this coming weekend. Practices will start as soon the fields are ready and games will start the first weekend of April vacation. Opening day is May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Auburn Soccer Club-** Everyone is registered and ready to start the season on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Review of Minutes-** The February minutes weren't sent out. We'll review at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting-** The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. We'll start working on the 2023 budget which will be due either late July or August. We will schedule a special meeting at some point in July, date to be determined.

*Mr. Oliveira motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. McEvoy seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.*

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