

**Town of Auburn
Parks and Recreation Commission
July 14, 2014**

In attendance were: Mr. Tim Therrien, Chairman; Mr. Kim Lufkin, Co-Chairman; Mrs. Lisa Canavan, Commissioner; Mr. Alex Eisman Commissioner; Mr. Dave Nye, Alternate Commissioner; Ms. Margie McEvoy, Alternate Commissioner; Mr. Pat Kelly, Alternate Commissioner and Mr. Mike Dobmier, Facilities Representative. Audrey Trickett and Karen Norris, Auburn Residents. Mrs. Helen Hiltz was recording the minutes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Tim Therrien.

August Concert

Mr. Tim Therrien stated that the June 19th concert was a success with ~160 people in attendance. Everyone had a good time, enjoyed the popcorn that was donated by the Longmeadow Church, and appreciated the raffle items that were donated.

Mrs. Hiltz noted that all was set for the August 21st concert. The band was secured and the Longmeadow church will provide a rain venue in case of inclement weather. Mr. Therrien gave a brief overview of the misunderstanding with the Historical Society. Mrs. Hiltz stated that she had invited Dan Carpenter and Alan Villeneuve to attend the Parks and Recreation meeting to discuss their possible participation at the next concert. Mr. Villeneuve stated that the Historical Society thought it would be best not to complicate the concert with a solicitation the Commission was trying to stay away from. Mr. Therrien asked the Committee if the previous decision (January 2014) that stated that there would be no fund-raising or selling of items at any event other than the Memorial Day Bazaar should be reviewed and rescinded or if the decision should stand. The Committee members felt strongly that the decision should be kept intact. Mrs. Canavan asked the residents who were in attendance for their opinion. Ms. Karen Norris stated that she was in support of the decision not to allow fund raising or selling of items at events, other than the Memorial Day Bazaar. The Committee decided that the decision to not allow fund raising or selling of items at any event other than the Memorial Day Bazaar would stand. All non-profit organizations were welcome to attend for educational purposes.

Curfew Signs for Circle of Fun Playground

Mrs. Hiltz had the three new curfew signs made up for the Circle of Fun Playground, copying the current signs that referenced RSA 485:24. Mr. Bill Herman, Town Administrator made Mrs. Hiltz aware of the fact that RSA 485:24 was an RSA that dealt with water pollution. Upon further investigation Mrs. Hiltz was informed that the verbiage was originally suggested by Manchester Water Works. The signs that were on other Manchester Water Works property now reference rule ENV-WS 386.47 in accordance with RSA 485:24. Mrs. Hiltz has checked with Tim Morin, the maker of the signs, and has confirmed that the lettering can be changed to reflect the Ruling # rather than the RSA. The cost would be ~\$25.00 per sign. It was agreed that Mrs. Hiltz would contact John O'Neil from Manchester Water Works to get an opinion as to how they would like to see the wording. Mr. Therrien stated that the wording should be as accurate as possible.

Meeting with Lori Coleman, New AVS Principal and Matt Acker, New AVS Athletic Director

Mrs. Hiltz noted that she was going to set up a meeting with Lori Coleman, new AVS principal and Matt Acker, new AVS athletic director. The main purpose of the meeting was going to be to strengthen the relationship between the School and the Parks and Recreation Department. The field reservation process would also be a topic of conversation. She noted that Mr. Past Kelly has asked to attend the meeting to discuss ASC usage of the school field and asked if other questions or concerns should be brought up at the meeting. Mr. Therrien asked if Mrs. Hiltz could invite Ms. Coleman and Mr. Acker to attend our next Parks and Recreation meeting on August 4th so that we can all meet them and have an open discussion. Mrs. Hiltz will invite them to attend the August 4th meeting.

Bees and Ants at the Playgrounds and Town Fields

Mrs. Hiltz noted that a report of a bee sting and the presence of bees at the Circle of Fun Playground was brought to her attention. Mrs. Hiltz was informed that the Auburn Fire Department had sprayed the ground with water earlier in the season but she walked the property several times. She did not see the presence of any unusually high number of bees but decided to take several actions to confirm that there was not a problem or to take care of the problem, if one was confirmed. Mr. Mike Dobmier, facilities, walked the property several times and did not see a bee problem. He had noted addressing several nests that had formed under the equipment over the last few weeks. Mrs. Hiltz also contacted the town landscaping contractor to see if they had observed a problem during their mowing efforts. The owner of the business stated that no one had reported a problem. He personally walked the property and could not find a problem. Mrs. Hiltz contacted John O'Neil from Manchester Water Works to get his suggestions on how to best handle a bee problem, if one was found. Mr. O'Neil suggested natural means. Mrs. Hiltz also contacted several pest control companies to see how an outdoor problem would be handled if the problem arose again. Considering the environmentally sensitive nature of property, options would be limited. Mrs. Hiltz reached out to surrounding communities to see if they have had to deal with the problem in their communities. She received a couple of potential options if the problem surfaced again.

Sprinkler System at Wayne Eddows

Mr. Pat Kelly asked for a status update on the sprinkler system at Wayne Eddows Field. Mr. Therrien stated that the project would be completed as soon as he could get the saw to cut the hard top.

Expanded Parking at the Circle of Fun Playground

Mr. Therrien gave an update on the effort to expand parking at the Circle of Fun Playground. The Committee had agreed (July 2014 meeting) to undertake the ~ \$1,600 project this year. The Auburn Moms Club had agreed to donate \$1,300 to the project. Unfortunately, once work began on the expansion there was more work than anticipated. There was buck thorn that had to be removed and the roots in the area were more intertwined and ran deeper than anticipated. Mr. Therrien stated that the overrun to the project was ~\$1,000.

Mr. Alex Eisman made a motion to approve the overrun for ~\$1,000. Mrs. Lisa Canavan 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Flag Pole at the Old Fire Station

The Committee discussed removing the flag pole from the old fire station and placing it at Circle of Fun Playground. The current flag pole at Circle of Fun Playground is not functioning and presents a potential safety issue. The cost would be ~\$800.00 to move the flagpole. The topic was tabled at this time due to possible budget constraints.

Budget

Mr. Therrien reviewed YTD expenditures and what projects/costs were still anticipated for this year. If there are no unexpected expenditures, it appears as though we will end the year on budget. Major projects that still need to be completed are the sealing of the skating rink and painting of the basketball courts. It was suggested that the sealing and painting be done two years in a row for best long term results. Mrs. Hiltz will check with Chris Webster to get information on a PA system. Mrs. Margie McEvoy will purchase the rest of the tables and chairs that were budgeted for. The dugouts still need to be raised at Wayne Eddows. Mrs. Margie McEvoy asked if there would be any funds left in the budget to put some solar lights at Bi-Centennial Park. It was noted that we may have to rely on donations to complete that effort. Mrs. Canavan will ask the Auburn Moms Club if they have any funds available for donation to that effort.

Mr. Therrien stated that there was a possibility of year round picnic tables being donated to the Parks and Recreation department.

Skate Park Proposal

Ms. Karen Norris, Auburn resident, made a proposal to the Committee to develop and build a small skate park behind the safety complex. Ms. Norris emphasized the fact that the park would be built with funds that would be secured through donations, grants, and fund raising, not tax payer funds. Ms. Norris stated that the AVS has now stopped skate boarding on their property and having our children skate boarding on the streets of Auburn is not safe. In 2013 there were 22 skate board deaths, 19 of which were on city streets. Ms. Norris has done much research on how to build the park. She has also reached out to other communities to determine how to insure that the park remains a safe, trouble-free environment. The communities that responded stated that Primex (our insurance carrier) did **not** discourage building the park. They recommended that rules be posted to minimize risk exposure. The communities also suggested that the park **not** be built in a remote location. Ms. Norris is suggesting building the skate park behind the safety complex. Ms. Norris also emphasized that her goal is to get the skate boarding youth in our community involved in the planning process and fund raising efforts of the project to insure a sense of ownership. She feels that this, along with the proposed location, would result in less vandalism. Members of the Committee expressed concern over sustained cleanliness, vandalism and future maintenance costs of the project. Ms. Norris hopes to raise enough funds to support a future maintenance program as well.

Mr. Dave Nye made a motion to support Ms. Norris's proposal and move forward with a conceptual plan. Ms. Margie McEvoy 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Alex Eisman made a motion to accept the June minutes as written. Mrs. Lisa Canavan 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Mrs. Lisa Canavan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15. Mr. Kim Lufkin 2nd the motion. All in favor.