

## **Holliston Parks Commission Wednesday June 9, 2010**

In attendance: Tom Chipman, Tibor Nemeth, Melissa Kasporn, Brett Morrison, Kristen Hedrick and Bob Nemet. Peter Barbieri, Peter Barbieri, Mike Tyman and Brad Naugler

### **Lions Club**

Peter Barbieri from the Lions Club would like to bring back the fireworks to close out the last night of the carnival. Cost to Lions Club is about \$2000.00. Peter met with Chief Cassidy and Atlas Fireworks to walk the school to measure the safety zone for the fireworks. The fence set up around the fireworks stage, it is 210 feet which allows for 3 inch fireworks, they could do four inch fireworks but Peter would like to stay with the three inch fireworks. They looked at Finn Field as a possible set-off location but it would require too much fence to close off the areas for safety. The Middle Field meets all the requirements for safety with the Fire Chief. Chief Cassidy is sending the application to the Fire Marshall for his approval. Peter also talked with Keith Buday from the School Department, and the concern Keith had was the insurance certificate, he wanted to have the School added to the Town of Holliston on the certificate. The general liability is 1 million, and the umbrella liability is 5 million. Another concern are the sprinklers underground. All of the fireworks are above ground. The fence will be installed on Saturday and they are just waiting for the Fire Marshalls Approval. The tree line is considered a natural barrier, where there is not solid tree line, they need to put up fencing. The last time the fireworks were set off there was only one complaint about the fireworks from a neighbor. The ten minute fireworks display will be on Saturday night at 10 pm and the carnival ends at 11 pm. Tom Chipman is concerned about the Kamitian Field Turf, Peter reiterated that it would be covered with the insurance if something happened. Tom Chipman would like to have pictures taken of the field before the event. The board is requiring that Peter send out letters to the Marked Tree and Robin Hill Rd that there will be fireworks at this event. Brett stated that fire dept volunteers will be at the event and if there is any question on safety with wind and the state guidelines then the Chief will not let them set off the fireworks.

Please see attached map. Tibor motions to approve the fireworks display at the Lions Club Carnival, subject to mailing a notice to the Robin Hill Rd and Marked Tree Rd residents about the fireworks and will copy the department with the letter. Melissa seconds, motion passes unanimously.

### **Boy Scout Eagle Scout Project**

Mike Tyman and Brad Naugler propose an Eagle Scout Project for Stoddard Park and Patoma. Brad believes that everyone would be beneficial to the Stoddard Park and Patoma Areas. The bats would eat the bugs and mosquitoes, they eat up to 600 bugs a night. There are two primary bats in the area, the little brown bat and the big brown bat, they consume roaches and pests. The bat houses are simple, painted black to appeal to the bats sight and absorb the sun to keep the heat at night. They will be constructed of untreated plywood, plastic mesh and non-latex paint. A suitable area to have a bat house is an area where the tree is open and faces south to south east and gets 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight. Twenty bats can fit into one bat house. The houses would attach to the trees by attaching the houses to poles and wrapping the poles around the tree so there would not be any nail hole in the tree just in the poles. They would be about 15 feet up in the tree in a desolate area near the lake. Tom Chipman asked that Brad bring in a map with locations where these bat houses would go. Tibor asked about upkeep on the houses. Brad thought they would need some minor maintenance once a year. Mike mentioned that Brad has a younger brother that would be able to help with future refurbishing. The time line for this project is to possibly start this summer. Tom Chipman offered his lift truck if the houses are near the road areas. Brad will need a letter of approval from the Park Commission after the next meeting.

Mike mentioned that they have seven other scouts looking for projects for the future. The Scouts would take any suggestions for future projects from The Parks & Recreation Department.

### **Directors Report**

The Patoma Cabin has been broken into and vandalized. Windows broken, paint thrown everywhere and beads in the paint. The Police do drive by but they have not caught the kids. Tom Chipman would like to install an alarm that would go off with movement sensors. It would just be a loud sound it would not connect to the police station. Maureen will need to notify Gregg Lewis about the windows. Bob believes that Gregg Lewis is heading out on vacation. Maureen may have to talk to another contractor.

Kristen reported the program update: Senior Patoma sessions are close to being full, Junior Patoma session 1 & 2 are full, and Goodwill 3 of the 6 sessions are full. Sports programs are slower to fill. Spring afterschool Field hockey had 29 kids in the program- this was the first time running it. The Sportsman program, the online registration that is used, the number of open spots could be seen on the computer by everyone. Sportsman added in a feature that can took out that number and stated there is "limited availability" in the program.

Mondays are much more hectic than the rest of the week in the office. Registration is ongoing and usually pick up as school is letting out.

The Goodwill Park grant meeting with the Planning Board on Thursday night has been postponed. Ahronian donated fencing to Goodwill Park last week to go along the edge of the park line. Tom Chipman asked about the sticker price for Stoddard Park, it was lowered this year due to the lack of Lifeguards, but now guards will now be at the Lake on the weekends at Stoddard. There will be a gate guard at Pleasure point and Stoddard Park on the weekends. Guards start the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. The picnic area at Stoddard Park is rented out to residents and non-residents, currently there is no charge for the picnic area. In the future there will be a charge for non-residents to use the picnic area; Kristen will look at cost to charge for the area. There is the question of how big an area to allow a group to use and the charge for that area. The fields cost \$20 per hour and the cost will probably be around that price.

### **Field Request for a company picnic at Stoddard Park**

Andy Rodenhiser would like to rent out Stoddard Park for a company picnic and is looking for approval for an alcohol permit. Currently there is no alcohol permitted at parks or fields. Andy is looking for the permit from the Parks Commission then still needs to go to the Selectmen for approval for the permit also. The picnic would be from 12- 8 pm, beer and wine only, they have insurance for the picnic. They are willing to do whatever is necessary to protect the town to make sure that nothing happens while their event is going on. They do not want to ruin this for future groups that would want to request alcohol permits. They would have 50-60 people there. Melissa asked about lifeguards for the lake. The recreation Department would get the guards but the group renting the park would pay for them to be there. The date they are looking for Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup> for the party. Tom Chipman asked about kegs or cans, he stated that the Board will need to discuss this request. If it does go through there will be no bottles or kegs, cans only. No glass. Tibor requested that lifeguards be hired by the group, cost is \$10 per hour. Kristen mentioned that it may be hard to get guards that late in the season. Andy stated that if they needed to go get guards themselves for the event they would do that and also hire a police detail if they thought it necessary. Bob Nemet asked about trash removal, Andy stated that they would take care of the trash. Tom Chipman asked that if there is going to be drinking that lifeguards should be on duty, again Andy said he would get his own guards if they needed to. Tom Chipman and the board are going to discuss and get back to

Andy. Tom Chipman mentioned that trash is an issue. Andy does a lot of hiking and camping and they clean up after themselves. Kristen will call Andy & let him know.

Tom Chipman is concerned that they have never allowed this before, he is leary about all the people that will be there. 12 – 9 pm is a lot of time for drinking. Melissa is concerned with the life guards, there should be two guards there for an event like this. The second issue is the park is till open to the public and others can wander in and join their party. If it was a private function and could close up the park to others that would be different. Here you cannot close the Park to other people. Tibor agrees that other people will be at the beach at just join the existing party with alcohol.

Brett Morrison stated there have been three drownings in the state so far at lakes and if you allow the alcohol once you are opening up pandoras box. Tom Chipman is not in favor of this event with alcohol and thinks it will get out of hand, Brett agrees and so does Melissa. Melissa states that if they have the event they should have guards there regardless of the beer and alcohol. Brett Morrison makes a motion to deny the alcohol permit to the group following the Town By law that there is no alcohol on town property. Melissa seconds. Motion to deny is unanimous. Second motion, Melissa motions that Rodenhiser is allowed to use Stoddard park contingent on life guards are approved by the Parks Dept and paid for by the company. Seconded bt Tom Chipman. Motion is unanimous. Kristen will call Andy to let him know that their use was approved but the alcohol permit denied.

### **Holliston Youth Baseball Batting Cages**

Sano Obid presented plans for a batting cage to be installed at Mission Springs. The cages would be to the right side of the basketball courts. There is cement in the ground that HYBA will hire Mayo to remove and dispose of, then install the cages. These cages are just like the cages they have installed at Flagg and Adams Field. They will be 62 feet long and two batting cages. Sano is not sure if it will be one or two cages, it depends on how much money their fundraiser has brought in. They will have to cut some branches along the tree line. Brett asked how close to the Mission Springs building the cages will be. Will they be able to hear all the noise with the use? Bob and Sano stated that the area they are looking to use is further from the building than the field. Sano will let the Department know the timeline for this project as soon as he finds out if the funds are available. Brett Morrison makes a motion to approve the batting cages to be installed by HYBSA at Mission Springs. Tom Chipman seconds, motion passes unanimously.

### **Patoma Soccer Goals**

Sano also is involved with the Holliston Youth Soccer and the Department received a phone call from a mother about the soccer goals at Patoma. There are 4v4 small goals at Patoma and Maureen Gonsolves called to let us know that she was at Patoma and some older boys about 12 moved the soccer goals from the edge of the field to the middle of the field to play with them. When they were returning the goals to the edge of the field Maureen Gonsalves son who is 5 was with them when they were moving them back and the goal fell on his head. He was taken to the hospital and had a concussion. The goals are chained in the off-season and Sano will let HYSA know.

### **Carry-In Carry-Out trash update**

Bob Nemet stated that at Goodwill Park there has been lots of trash Monday mornings. He believes it is from the kids on Friday afternoon's afterschool. In general the fields don't have trash everywhere. It has been much better on field without barrels then with barrels.

Kristen is looking to order permanent signs for the fields. The signs would be green and the size of the No Parking signs 12 by 18 are 32.95 each. To post on all the fields we will need to order about 24 signs. Signs would read: *Carry-in, Carry-out Facility per order of the Park Commission*  
Other towns have been calling to find out about how our program is going and if it has been well received. They want to start similar programs in their towns.

Stoddard Park Picnic area rental-Kristen is going to look into a policy change for next year about charging non-residents to use the area and residents can use it for free. There are a lot of non-residents renting out the area at no cost.

The Pleasure Point sign is missing. Kristen will look into having a new one made.

The Youth Soccer organization has an issue with the violation policy where if there is illegal parking by your group you receive a violation and penalty. The issue they have is that you can't prove the cars that were parked illegally belonged to the soccer organization, they could belong to people using the park. Tibor believes the coaches should talk to the parents. The police need to be called to take care of the situation and ticket the cars. In the future Kristen will send out a notice to the group that is illegally parking but will not count it against the violation policy. There has not been a problem with parking since.

There was a naked man caught at Patoma Park.

In the future on High School graduation we will not allow any use of the fields that day so not to disrupt set up and event. The Mens Baseball parked behind the HS preventing trucks from getting into the field house.

There have been some kids hanging out at Goodwill Park being disruptive.

#### Irrigation

Mission Springs is up and running, Weston Pond and Flagg Field are running. Adams and Damigella and Stoddard are not hooked up yet because the Water Department needs to fix the drain in the pipe it is cracked. Bob requested to have the water turned on back in March. They should have the meters in and working soon. Moisturetek came out to turn on the irrigation and could not because the hook up to the water lines had not been done yet. Moisturetek had to return to turn them on.

Emergency numbers for the Flagg Building storage. Kristen will put up emergency numbers by the doors. Tom Chipman, Maureen Korson and Kristen Hedrick will have their cell phone numbers on this sheet.

#### Beach Sand

The Conservation Commission approved the order a different kind of sand instead of the glacial sand. There were 4 truck loads, the sand is not the glacial sand quality, it packs in and not beach sand. In the past approval for glacial sand from a place in Rhode Island that specializes in this sand. Jeff Zeamer then gave approval to use a different sand from. The Highway department raked the sand out across the beach.

#### DPW

The Park Commission needs to vote on the Park representative to the DPW Committee. Tom Chipman will do it and is not for the DPW Committee.

Kristen had a problem with a Holliston resident. A resident came into the office in the spring and talked about putting together a pre-school program and she decided to meet with her on May 19<sup>th</sup> along with another woman. They wanted to have a 10 week session and have caretakers stay for the two hour program. Kristen suggested that they do a six-week program to reduce the cost. Parents may not want to spend large amounts of money on a program especially with the down economy. The woman became combative about the amount weeks the program would run, she wanted longer sessions. Kristen told them she needed to do some research on the type of program they wanted to

put together to see what works for other Recreation Departments. And asked them for their contact person in Franklin where the program they know about is offered. Kristen met with them again two weeks later to discuss the options. Kristen found that drop-off programs were the more successful programs and in the middle of the conversation she turned to Kristen and asks "Is it because I am black?" Kristen respond "I don't understand, what do you mean?" It was not that Kristen did not want to do the program there are a lot of challenges to start a program like this. The conversation ended and Kristen talked to Andrea and Maureen about the incident. Kristen is not going to do the program with them. The conversation is documented in an email. Tom Chipman wanted this in the minutes so that everyone knows what is going on.

### **Once Around**

Special approval for the April 7<sup>th</sup> minutes. Tom Dumas is no longer on the board emailed his approval of the minutes of April 7<sup>th</sup> with Tibor Nemeth and Tom Chipman. Please see attached email.

Next meeting- Wednesday July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

The Goodwill Park Playground Planning Board Meeting has been postponed to July.

Tibor Nemeth is moving, they sold their house and they are moving to North Carolina.

Brett Morrison went to Pleasure Point on Memorial Day, which was packed. There were a few signs down and the sign no lifeguard on duty was not up.

Tibor Nemeth motions to end the June 9<sup>th</sup> Park Meeting, Melissa Kaspern seconds, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen Hedrick