

Tom Chipman, Brett Morrison, Peter Hill Melissa Kaspern
Andrea Minihan, Keith, Dave Gatchell, Bob Nemet

Green Street

Lt Edison and Officer Dave Gatchell came into to offer suggestion on how to handle the on-going problems with kids smoking, swearing, and causing a nuisance to the neighborhood, graffiti, vandalism and hanging out at Goodwill Park.

Mr. Chipman stated that the residents want the Park Commissioners to be more of a presence at the park, and stated that he stops by periodically, has picked up trash and painted over graffiti but says the department can not be there all the time. He asked Lt Edison how often the police go to Goodwill Park. Lt Edison stated the police go to the park every shift and also countless times they drive by.

Officer Gatchell stated that he checked into the police log entries since Jan 31, 34 log entries, 16 of those were self initiated, meaning officers came about it without any complaints from anybody. He stated that within those 35 calls, a couple were regarding vandalism, there was a fire setting issue which is being addressed by the fire chief, 9 calls were after dark. He stated the parks would be better served if they were posted "no trespassing after dark". The current wording of closing at dusk is subjective and difficult to enforce when the lights are still on at the tennis/basketball courts.

Lt Edison stated that would be appropriate for "no trespassing after dark" for all park properties.

Ms. Kaspern wondered if they are just hanging out or are the kids actually doing something wrong.

Officer Gatchell stated the police often try to observe the park unnoticed by coming in on foot from the adjacent street.

Officer Gatchell stated that at times they are called down but nothing has been found except kids hanging around and fooling around. Other times he has observed kids swearing and removes them for the day because of that. He stated the police have been working hard to build good relationships with the kids. Officer Gatchell stated he works with the schools and knows that many of them are good kids. He stated there are a couple of kids that are ring leaders and they instigate problems. He stated that recently there was a call about smoking marijuana and they found 6 kids. On the log there are 5 calls for just kids hanging around. Two of the calls were unfounded. There were also 3 parking complaints two were citations the other was told to move the cars.

Officer Gatchell suggested that in order to solve the problems he recommends that the Park Commission post "no trespassing after dark" the signs at the parks, post the rules on the website and be in control of the park. If someone is found to be breaking the rules, a letter of "disinvitation" should be sent certified, to the child's family from the Park Commission with a copy being sent to the police, stating that they are not allowed on park property for an amount of time to be decided on by the park commission. Should that person be found on park property again the police would have cause to charge them. They could be sent through the 'court diversion' program thru Youth and Family Services and part of the community service would be they would have to go down to the park and clean it up, or they can be brought into court to explain why they were hanging out there when they should not be. The "no trespassing" would be for all park properties, so the person would not be permitted in any town parks during the term established by the park commission. Lt Edison stated the

rules should not be posted on the sign at the park, only the “no trespassing signs”. He stated the rules should be posted on the town website. Ms Hedrick stated she will post a link on our website directing people to read the rules. Mr. Chipman stated signs must be purchased stating “No Trespassing after Dark” per order of the Holliston Park Commission for Goodwill Park, Pleasure Point, Patoma & cabin, Stoddard Park, Mission Springs. Ms Hedrick stated she will purchase the signs. Mr. Morrison stated an article should be placed in the Holliston Reporter. Ms. Korson asked what about kids who were seen in the park during the daytime smoking? Officer Gatchell stated the officer would send the person away for violating the rules of the park. He stated that the letter should be sent stating “On this day & time you were observed at the park by Officer xxxx smoking, which is violation of our rules. Because of this you are not permitted into any Town Park for xxx amount of time.” Officer Gatchell stated he might have some wording to send over. Tom Chipman asked about putting surveillance cameras up. Lt Edison that is ok. Ms. Korson stated that she had received and saved a voicemail message from a Green St. resident stating he felt the police are not responsive. Lt Edison stated that he had called the resident and had been advised that he was satisfied with the police response. Mr. Morrison stated that he has called the police for problems at the park and found they were there within minutes. Officer Gatchell stated when he responds to calls he is not going to go onto Green St and park because the kids will run away when they see the police cruiser. He said he goes in through the woods and so he can observe from there. He stated the residents are not aware that the police are responding to the call. Officer Gatchell stated that 2 calls came in on Jul 5th within an hour, the first about smoking marijuana, the police arrived within minutes and the complaint was “unfounded”. He stated the other call was about kids skateboarding on the tennis courts, the officers responded in 4 minutes but it was “unfounded”. Lt Edison stated that once a couple of kids are cited they will see that the Park Commission is serious and there are consequences, the behavior will stop. Tom Chipman stated the rules must be “no drinking, smoking, swearing”. The Park Commission reviewed the Park Commission by-Laws and the Town’s Public Ways and Places by-laws and determined that the rules found therein explain the prohibited behavior. Ms. Hedrick stated she will create website links to these rules. Ms. Kasporn stated that the commission should establish the guidelines. After some discussion it was decided that an initial letter should be sent out immediately with a minimum of 30 days to prevent lag time in addressing the problem between park meetings. The letter will state a 30 day automatic dis-invite will be issued, to be followed by a letter from the park commission after the next park meeting with a firm amount of time..

Ms. Kasporn made a motion that anyone who fails to obey the ‘no trespassing after dark’ or breaks any other Park Commission or Town By-law rule will receive an immediate 30 day letter of disinvite, sent from the Park Commission, to all properties under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission. This will be followed by a second letter from the Park Commission giving an exact length of disinvite upon their deliberation at the next Park Meeting.

Mr. Morrison second. All in favor. Motion passes.

Director’s Update

- Summer programs are up and running. The bigger “camp” programs began last week. Junior Patoma and Goodwill Park opened with full enrollment. Senior Patoma stated with two openings. The staffing has been carefully planned based on enrollment and it is expected to run making a profit

- All new waterfront staff this year, which made for a bit of a challenge getting it all off the ground, however the staff appears to be doing very well
- Stoddard Park will be staffed on six of the traditionally most heavily used weekends. Beach attendance usually falls off in August.
- Gate Guards are posted at Stoddard Park and Pleasure Point this year as last year revenue was lost at the point.
- As of July 14th approximately \$3360 has been taken in at the gate in day pass receipts. Ms Korson stated this revenue will be used to cover the weekend lifeguard salaries.
- Ms. Korson requested the Park Commission review the waterfront rules which were established over ten years ago and recommended that rule #8 be amended based on research she had done within the Parks and Recreation community and based on discussions she had with the supervisor at Hopkinton State Park.

Mr. Peter Hill made a motion to amend the rules to allow for coast guard approved PFD and change the rule to read ““No snorkels, fins, floatation devices, water wings, floatation bathing suits, nets, large beachballs. No life jackets except those bearing a stamp stating “coast guard approved PFD” with to include a strap between the legs. Parents/guardians must never be more than an arms distance away from the child in the water.”

Ms. Melissa Kaspersn seconded. All in favor. Motion passes.

- Noodles will be acceptable. Not meant to be floatation device, similar to a beach ball.
- The July 4th celebration was another success this year. The event was well attended and \$792 was collected for the scholarship funds and also many donations for the food pantry.
- Ms. Korson stated that it has been a persistent problem that a huge population of out of town residents come in on the weekends and take the park over. Although revenue is collected it at times presents a safety issue because of inadequate waterfront staffing. Ms. Korson suggested that the policies be re-examined for the coming year, perhaps limiting access to the park only by those who have purchased seasonal beach stickers.
- The Planning Board approved the Goodwill Park playground plan as presented by Applewood Survey with the stipulation that the water drain-off is revisited when the calculations are complete.
- The PARC grant will be completed and turned into Boston on July 15, 2010

DPW Update

Mr. Chipman stated that he had attended one meeting so far. He stated that the DPW committee wants to go to each department to hear their concerns. Mr. Chipman stated that he is concerned that the parks will be taken over by the DPW and there will be only one person in the Recreation Department, and will have to ask for field use or use of the parks and be charged for use. He stated that they the DPW has no idea about the buildings under the Parks jurisdiction. Ms. Kaspersn stated that she understands the concept of a DPW sharing trucks and doing infrastructure repairs, but does not believe that the Park and Recreation Department fits in. Mr. Chipman stated that it appears as though once a DPW director is hired he will have to go thru each budget and make cuts to fund his own position. Mr. Chipman stated that the fields will suffer, fees will still be collected but used for other DPW expenses. Mr. Chipman stated that the commissioners should think about the pros and cons of parks being rolled into

the DPW and email him with their thoughts. Mr. Bob Nemet stated that Mr. Tom Dumas and Mr. Carl Damigella were there as private citizens. Mr. Will McColl was designated as the Selectman's Liaison.

CPC Member

Ms Korson stated that she had received an email from Sam Tyler, CPC chair requesting the name of the new Park Commission member as Tibor Nemeth moved has away. Ms. Melissa Kaspern stated she would be interested in the CPC position.

Mr. Brett Morrison made a motion to nominate Melissa Kaspern as the new Park Commission CPC member. Mr. Peter Hill seconded. All in favor. Motion passes.

Once Around

Bob Nemet stated that he spoke with Mr. Tibor Nemeth regarding his resignation and stated he was advised that his letter of resignation is in the mail.

Ms. Kristen Hedrick stated that Mission Possible requested the 24th of October for the 5k run. Ms. Hedrick stated there is a new AD at the HS. She stated that she has coordinated with Pop Warner & the HS coach to keep the day open.

Mr. Brett Morrison stated that there are a lot of No Parking signs on Stoddard Park Drive and that there are not any signs for No Swimming at Pleasure Point. There was some discussion about the colors of the signs.

Mr. Peter Hill made a motion to close the meeting at 8:45pm. Mr. Morrison seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Korson