

**Park Commission Meeting**  
**Aug 14, 2010**  
**DRAFT**

Present: Tom Chipman, Brett Morrison, Bob Nemet, Melissa Kaspern, Maureen Korson, Kristen Hedrick, Peter Hill

Guest: Bill Tobin

June 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

**Ms. Melissa motioned to accept the minutes of June 9<sup>th</sup> 2010. Mr. Brett Morrisson seconded. All in favor. Motion passes.**

Field Updates

Mr. Bob Nemet stated carry-in carry out worked really well this season. There was only one group who did not follow as well. Continual problems with trash overflow after the Goodwill concerts. Mr. Nemet stated he put up the carry-in/carry-out trash signs and took away the barrels.

Irrigation Update—Some of the irrigation systems have been on intermittent watering on the fields with well water.

Ms. Hedrick stated she had gotten a request to a boot camp on Weston Pond. Mr. Nemet stated that someone has been observed using Weston Pond at 6:00am

Bat Houses— Recommendation by Simply Safer to get bat houses because bats will eat the Japanese beetles. Mr. Nemet stated he discussed making the bat houses with boy scout leader Mr. Mike Tinan as a community service project. Mr. Nemet stated he has seen Japanese beetles on the fields.

Kamitian is in need some seam repair. The new AD at the HS has contacted the company that did the work. Mr Chipman asked if it is under warranty? Bob Nemet stated that it is no, the field is five years old. Ms Hedrick stated that a separate line item has been established for repairs for to Kamitian. Tom Chipman asked how much has been taken in for that field? Kristen Hedrick stated approximately \$4,000 per year. Tom Chipman stated the field needs to be cleaned. He wondered who will pay for repair? Ms. Hedrick stated that she would like to see the bill split with the schools. Ms. Melissa Kaspern stated the bill should be split more of a 60/40 split because the youth sports do not use it as much as a HS sports. Ms. Hedrick stated that the fees should be held in the account for the future in the event the field needs total replacement. Mr Chipman stated all the money collected for youth groups using the field should be saved in that line. Ms. Hedrick stated that LAX and Pop Warner use the field and would contribute approximately \$5,000 annually. Ms Kaspern stated that the money should have the opportunity to grow in the account.

Mr Bob Nemet stated that all of the 6 LAX goals were vandalized, perhaps sprayed with acid. They are no longer usable.

7:20 Peter Hill arrived

### Goodwill Park

Ms. Korson stated she invited Bill Tobin of Holliston Reporter to discuss the problems at Goodwill Park to write an article about the problems at Goodwill Park and the Commission's desire to make their firm stance against rule breaking to be made public. At 7:30 Mr. Tobin arrived. Mr. Chipman stated that there have been growing problems with kids hanging out at the park and smoking, swearing etc. Ms Hedrick stated that lights at the basketball courts have been turned off. Mr Chipman explained that should a child be caught breaking Park rules the Park Commission will send a letter of "disinvitation" and for an automatic 30 days will not be allowed in the parks. He stated the police suggested this process. Mr Chipman stated we need to get the word out to parents so they can discuss this with their children.. Bob Nemet stated that pictures of the trash and graffiti should be taken and posted on the Holliston Reporter.. Brett Morrison stated that he saw kids smoking in the park and called the police who arrived quickly. Tom Chipman stated the Commission has met with the police to develop a solution to the problem. He said the police stated that if they catch a couple of the kids that would put an end to the problem. Mr. Peter Hill stated that the park is there for everyone to use but not to abuse. Mr Chipman stated that the people on Green St. have expressed frustrated with the situation. Mr. Morrison stated that if a certified letter is sent to a parent they will be made aware of the problem. Mr. Chipman stated that he wants the word out that the Park Commission is doing what they can to resolve the issue. Ms. Kaspersn stated that these kids would not go to a community center. Ms. Hedrick stated that she is trying to develop a Friday afternoon program to prevent kids from hanging out after school. Mr. Morrisson stated that this policy is for all town parks. Mr Chipman stated that the Patoma cabin was vandalized and was repaired at great expense. Mr Tobin stated that there have also been problems at the Andrews School, and at Bobby Blair's. Ms. Kaspersn stated that they have a right to be at the park but they must behave. Mr Chipman stated that the neighbors should not have to deal with the swearing and smoking. Mr. Nemet stated that he has sent kids away from the tennis courts and basket ball courts because they are skate boarding. Ms Kaspersn stated that she asked a child to leave the basketball court because he was skateboarding and he stared at her and didn't move. Mr Chipman stated there has been a huge problem at Patoma with vandalism and at Goodwill there has been a major problem with smoking, swearing. Mr. Tobin stated that he would write an article for The Reporter right away.

At 8:00pm Mr. Tobin left the meeting.

### Proposed DPW Organization

Mr. Chipman stated that on the Aug 26 meeting there will be discussion with feedback from each department regarding the DPW reorganization. Ms. Kaspersn asked who will ultimately vote on this. Mr. Chipman stated Town Meeting. Mr. Chipman stated that the purpose of the committee is intended to be a study committee. Mr Chipman stated that he would like to see the Parks moved out of the DPW proposal Mr. Nemet stated that the highway workers have contacted the union. Ms Kaspersn stated that the Commission should make a case as to why it would not benefit the town. Mr. Chipman stated there would be a recreation director, but the asst director would be cut to 25 hours giving 5 hours a week to the DPW to work on fields. Ms. Kaspersn stated that there should be an investigation into other towns that have this system and to find out if it works. Mr. Chipman stated the DPW plan is to hire a director that would be directed to find \$108,00 to cover his salary. He is concerned that field maintenance would be cut down to pay for this salary. Mr. Kaspersn wondered what do the Selectmen think of the plan. There was discussion about how an article gets onto the Town warrant. Mr.

Chipman stated that this is the second time the committee has come together. Ms Hedrick stated that she has read through all the DPW minutes and most of the conversations have centered around concerns about the Water Dept.. Ms Hedrick stated that there has been nothing mentioned about problems with Highway and Parks. Ms. Hedrick stated that there is much discussion around firing of various positions in the minutes. Mr Chipman said that if this is passed the Recreation Department would be charged to use the fields. Ms Hedrick stated that all of the usage fees that are taken in are put into the fields. Mr. Nemet stated that it is stated in the DPW minutes that money taken in for field rentals will go into the DPW budget. Ms. Kaspersn stated that the Park Commission needs to come up with bulleted items as to why this would not work and prepare for Town Meeting. Mr. Chipman stated that he is worried people in the town might think this is a good idea because it will solve the communication problems between the Water and Highway Depts. Ms Hedrick stated that she is going to attend the DPW meeting so that she can communicate with the youth groups and keep them informed. Ms Kaspersn asked if there is money to have been an independent study conducted on the Park Dept to prove that the Park Dept is running efficiently. Mr Nemet stated that the town only pays for the employee salaries in the Park Department. The budget used to fund counselors and life guards but now those items are all funded by fees. Mr. Chipman stated that under this proposal the Recreation Department would have to pay to use the parks and fields. Ms Kaspersn stated that parents will be angry if programs are affected. Ms Kaspersn stated that it would make sense to communicate this with the youth groups and state what could happen so they can make calls to ask questions. Mr. Chipman stated that the new director is not going to be focused on taking care of the fields, he will be more involved with making sure the streets are ok and the water is running ok. Mr. Nemet stated that the committee plans to have the new director find the money for his salary. Mr. Chipman stated that the DPW is looking for a letter of comments from each department. Ms. Korson gave the Commissioners a draft copy the comment letter and will send it to the DPW committee by the deadline. Mr Chipman stated that the letter should state that there is no value in having the Park Dept to be part of the DPW. Ms Hedrick stated that she will email the youth groups to advise them that the DPW minutes are online. Mr. Nemet stated that under this proposal all the facilities would be under the DPW. Mr Chipman asked that the Commissioners email Ms. Korson their thoughts or ideas for this letter.

**Ms. Melissa made a motion to declare that the Park Commission is opposed to being included in the proposed Department of Public Works reorganization and will request that the Park Department be removed from the proposal. Mr. Brett Morrison seconded. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.**

#### Once Around

Ms Kaspersn stated that the Franklin students who were at Stoddard Park and arrested for drinking and lighting fires should also be issue the letter of disinvitation .

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 pm by Brett Morrison. Peter Hill seconded. All in favor**

