

Holliston Park Commission
Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2014

Present: Inge Daniels, Kristen Hedrick, Paul Healy, Melissa Kaspern, Tom Chipman

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of May 14, 2014—unable to approve at this time due to absence of Mr. Winters.

Minutes of June 11, 2014—Ms. Kaspern made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 11, 2014 . Mr. Healy seconded. All in favor.

Stoddard Park Alcohol Permit for Mudville Baseball

Mr. Jay Wyman explained there will be a two day baseball tournament with the first day to be played at Stoddard Park. Mr. Wyman explained there is also a cook-out planned for the teams and their families, as is customary, and requested that it be permitted to allow beer to be served. Ms. Hedrick stated that there is a no alcohol policy which is enforced. Mr. Chipman stated that in the past they have denied others to have alcohol permitted and felt it must be consistent.

Tennis Court Update

Ms. Hedrick stated the tennis courts are done. A windscreen has been ordered. The basketball court still needs work. There are still some small cracks that can be seen. David LaPointe will discuss this with the contractor. There was some discussion about payment to Beals and Thomas as an amount had been held back to cover the cost of keeping Beals and Thomas on with the project. Ms. Hedrick stated Jim Arnold would take care of paying it. Ms. Hedrick stated that the seaming problems have also occurred at other courts due to a manufacturer malfunction.

Lake Winthrop Update

Ms. Hedrick stated that the Conservation Agent advised her that the Eagle Scout project presented to the Conservation Commission included a 64 ft. fishing pier. The Commissioners discussed contacting the Eagle Scout's family to advise them that a fishing pier is not on the long-term Park Department vision and offer some alternate projects. Ms. Kaspern stated she will contact the family to advise them of this. Mr. Chipman stated it would be very difficult to put footings in the water and the project would be very expensive with a lot of road-blocks.

Benthic Mats—Ms. Hedrick stated it would be a good idea to put the mats on the outside perimeter of the swimming area. Ms. Daniels stated there is usually some sort of rigid frame placed on top or bottom of the mats to keep the mates down.

Ms. Hedrick stated there had been an incident at the lake one night between a couple which prompted a 911 call and Fire Department and Police involvement. Ms. Hedrick stated that police have recommended an issue of "no trespass" be issued. The Park Commissioners agreed to issue a no trespass for 60 days. Ms. Hedrick stated there have been many empty bottles found at the Park.

Ms. Hedrick stated there had been an unruly patron at Stoddard. She stated she met with the Police Chief and he has advised the police will be more visible at the beach.

Ms. Hedrick stated that the Pleasure Point side of the lake has been established as residents. It is difficult to implement this policy due to the boat ramp being open to use by non-residents. Ms. Kaspern stated that if the lake is opened up to non-residents it should be guarded. Ms. Daniels stated that her concern with opening it up to non-residents is there is very limited parking.

Ms. Hedrick stated the 4th of July was a wash-out due to the rain. Ms. Hedrick stated that revenue at the gate is up this year. The gate guards have been staying later this year. Ms. Hedrick stated that she will analyze the difference in revenue from last year to this year with the increase in hours at the beach and gate. Ms. Hedrick stated that she may have a different system of lifeguards working shifts next year to cover until to 7:00.

Summer Programs Update

Ms. Hedrick stated the programs are running well. The extended day program has begun. Ms. Diane Comstock is doing a great job. Ms. Alison Dolan is doing well, there is a learning curve with her first year. Shawn Chledda has returned this year for Senior Patoma. The new younger counselors are doing a great job this year. Ms. Kerry Perpall is running the CIT program this year. The lifeguards are doing a good job. Swim lessons have begun. Ms. Hedrick stated there was request for a permit to sell hot dogs. Ms. Hedrick stated she discussed this with the Selectmen's Office and was advised the vendor would have to apply to the Board of Health, however the Park Commission would have to approve the permit. Ms. Kaspern stated she does that believe that the Park Commission should get involved in this.

Ms. Hedrick stated she was contacted by Representative Carolyn Dykema to meet with various groups in Town to discuss the potential for the Hopkinton YMCA filling in programming gaps. Ms. Hedrick expressed concern about Park and Recreation losing programming opportunities to the YMCA.

Once Around

Ms. Kaspern stated Ms. Mary Greendale sent an email suggesting the Pleasure Point bath house be turned into kayak storage. Mr. Chipman stated building a boat house could be an Eagle Scout project. There was much discussion about retro-fitting the building and rental fees.

Mr. Chipman asked about the status of the budget that is in process with the Town Accountant. Ms. Hedrick stated she will work on that this fall.

Ms. Daniels asked about the status of the feasibility study for the Flagg Building. There was much discussion of next steps including design. Ms. Daniels stated the Park Commission has been given the go-ahead from the School Committee to do a feasibility study of the Flagg Building. It was decided that engineers should be engaged to prepare design plans. Ms. Hedrick stated that rough numbers of space have been gathered from the other affected departments. Mr. Chipman stated that someone needs to be hired to prepare the plans. It was decided that Mr. Jon Juhl should be called to discuss providing a conceptual plan for renovating the Flagg Building.

Ms. Daniels stated that she had become aware of an online discussion about private swimming lessons advertised in town. Ms. Daniels stated that she commented online that the only swim lessons permitted at Lake Winthrop where those being offered by Park & Recreation.

Ms. Daniels expressed concern that there have been reports of dogs at the beach and asked if the Police have been involved in discouraging this. Ms. Hedrick stated that people observing dogs at the beach should call the dog officer.

Ms. Hedrick stated that there has been discussion on Holliston Happy about trash on the fields.

Ms. Hedrick stated that she had been contacted by a member of the Board of Selectmen to obtain a beach sticker. The Park Commissioners agreed that the policy should remain that anyone wishing to have a beach sticker should purchase one.

Ms. Kaspern made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Chipman seconded. All in favor.