

Holliston Park Commission Meeting Minutes-April 9, 2014

Present: Inge Daniels, Kristen Hedrick, Bob Nemet, Paul Healy, Melissa Kaspern, Art Winters, Tom Chipman

Minutes

In the minutes of January 14, 2014, strike the sentence under budget stating "Ms. Daniels suggested there be a survey planned." Under the Tennis heading add "Ms. Hedrick met with Jim Arnold".

Tom Chipman made a motion to accept the minutes of January 14, 2013, February 12, 2014 and March 24, 2014. Art Winters seconded. All in favor.

Swim Lessons at Lake Winthrop

Ms. Margaret Bishop attended the meeting to discuss her daughter's plan to offer private swim lessons at Pleasure Point beach this summer. Ms. Bishop stated the lessons would be small and offered only to a couple of kids. The Commission stated they have a concern that the location is very isolated. Additionally there was a concern about insurance coverage in the event of an accident. The Commissioners stated that users of Park Facilities have to pay for usage, similar to a field rental agreement. There was much discussion among the Commission regarding the potential liability and risk even in the event that an insurance policy was purchased. Ms. Hedrick stated she was advised there is a potential deed restriction against commercial use of the lake.

Mr. Healy made a motion that at this time the Park Commission will not allow private swimming lessons at Lake Winthrop. Tom Chipman seconded. All in favor.

Lion's Club Carnival

Ms. Hedrick stated the Lions Carnival is planned for Thurs Jun 26 thru Jun 29th and the liability insurance binder has already been submitted. The Commission reviewed the map from last year. The drop off of equipment will occur on June 23rd. Ms. Hedrick said there could be an issue with the fields as they are rented at that time and there could be a time issue. She asked that the Lions work out the details of equipment being dropped off with the field renters. The Lions plan to have the same show as last year. Mr. Chipman asked if the Fire Chief has been contacted about the fireworks; Ms. Hedrick stated the Commission can approve the event contingent upon his approval.

Mr. Chipman made a motion to approve the Lion's Club Carnival request contingent upon the approval of the Fire Chief. Ms. Daniels seconded. All in favor.

Rails Trail –PARC Grant

Robert Weidnecht of the Rail Trails Committee discussed the committee's intention to purchase a portion of rail bed and would like to pursue the PARC grant to do so. He explained that, in order to apply for the grant, approval must come from the Park Commission to declaring the parcel for recreational use only. The current status of the rail bed was discussed relative to surfacing and open trails. The group would like to acquire the land around the Arch Bridge using PARC grant funding. There is an area from Church to Lowland St that is complicated to purchase. There is a question as to whether federal funding can be used in the event the railroad wants to open up the tracks again at some point in the future. The Commission expressed concern that the Commission would be responsible for maintenance. Mr. Weidnecht explained that the trail is maintained by the trails committee and materials have been purchased through grants and installed by the Highway Department in the past.

Ms. Kaspern stated she would entertain a motion to have the parks commission be the governing body over the priority one and priority two of the Upper Charles Rail Trail for the purposes of securing the PARC grant. So moved by Mr. Winters. Seconded by Mr. Chipman. All in favor.

Ms. Daniels stated there was a meeting of the Lakes Committee on the site to see if there is a possibility to get a connection of the rail trail and Lake Winthrop. The best way to access this connection would be in conjunction with the Arch Street Bridge, on the northeast side. Signage would have to be purchased by the Park Commission and placed in a Kiosk directing people to Pleasure Point.

Tennis Court Update

Ms. Hedrick stated the change form has been submitted. The High School is currently using the courts and she has been advised that the courts are becoming more usable as it becomes warmer. There was discussion about the wording of the tennis court statement that is to be sent out to various communication outlets such as Holliston Reporter and Facebook and the town website. Ms. Daniels stated, regarding the website, the Park Commissioners need to be updated and a "Frequently Asked Questions" page should be added.

Community Building at Flagg Location-Process

Ms. Hedrick stated after the Selectman terminated the Community Center Task Force Committee, she emailed Mary Greendale to see what the cost would be to hire a grant writer. Ms. Kaspern stated CPC directed her to pursue grants because the CPC monies cannot be used for gymnasiums and stadiums. The goal of the CPC funds are more of an outdoor recreation funding, rather than for indoor recreation space, so CPC money may not be available for a recreation building. Ms. Hedrick stated Ms. Greendale advised her a master plan is in process for grants, and if she hears of any applicable grants she will notify the Commission. The Commission discussed how to get the schools to allow a long-term lease on the Flagg Building. Ms. Daniels she feels that the Commission needs to get in motion to obtain a space.

Recreation Update

There was discussion about when the Highway Dept. would be available to place the Cool Toppers at Goodwill and the timeline for installing the handicap swing. Ms. Daniels stated there is graffiti at the Park. Mr. Nemet stated the fence in the back of the rear rain garden has been damaged. Mark Ahronian has provided the only maintenance quote to date. Ms. Korson is meeting with Rehl Gardens on Friday. There was discussion about installing an electrical cover box at Stoddard. There was discussion about the change in management at Pinecrest and the impact to golf lessons this summer.

Field Reports

Ms. Hedrick discussed the field expenses, extra things were done this year such as the dug outs and paint machine purchase. The income for grass fields was \$32,799 and \$5,812 for Kamitian. Ms. Hedrick stated it is important to cover all the expenses on the grass field side and so the last Pop Warner bill was deposited on the grass field side. Ms. Hedrick stated that the fields are running at a deficit, and some of the funding being set aside for the future replacement of Kamitian may be used. Mr. Nemet the expense of paint purchases will be less this year due to the new machine.

Ms. Hedrick stated there was a field violation this past weekend by the Youth Baseball group. She stated the fields were closed, and an email notifying all users was sent out. A member of the youth baseball group disregarded the closed fields statement and ran a practice game. There was much discussion about how to handle the violation.

Mr. Healy made a motion to impose a \$500 violation charge because the group disregarded the Commission's decision to keep the fields closed. Moving forward the Commission will amend the field policies to state that a group using a closed field will be fined \$500. Mr. Winters seconded. All in favor.

Ms. Hedrick stated she will be wrapping up interviews for counselors & lifeguards, and is in the process of hiring. She is in the process of looking for a lifeguard supervisor.

Ms. Hedrick stated there needs to be a vote for the CPC representative.

Ms. Daniels made a motion to have Ms. Kaspern be the CPC liaison for the Park Commission. Mr. Healy seconded. All in favor.

Once Around

Ms. Daniels stated when she was at Goodwill Park the tennis coach was parked in front of the garage. Ms. Hedrick stated she would tell the coach not to park there.

Ms. Daniels stated she received a report from Mr. Shaw Lively that there is a branch down on the power line that goes to Patoma. This should be taken care of before we open Patoma.

Mr. Healy asked if they are coming back to re-do the basketball court. Ms. Hedrick stated they are.

Ms. Kaspern stated she heard Holliston in Bloom has decided that they would like to improve the look of Pleasure Point. Ms. Kaspern stated she received an email from Ms. Mary Greendale and Mr. Mark Ahronian will take this on as a Holliston in Bloom project. There was much discussion about the judging process. Mr. Winters stated that when the judges were here last year they criticized Pleasure Point.

Ms. Kaspern stated the Commission should have control over where work is done based on the Commissions goals for improvements. Ms. Daniels suggested they be invited to come to a Park Commission meeting to discuss. Ms. Kaspern stated they should be invited to the next meeting to give a proposal for the work. Ms. Kaspern stated Mary Greendale wants to meet with the Commission on Thursday or Friday because she is already working on videos and photos for this story. Ms. Kaspern stated she is not opposed to receiving money for improvements but the Commission should be approached first.

Bob Nemet discussed the ga-ga pit built by the Girl Scouts for the Middle School on the third base side of Adams field. The Park Commission was not approached about this.

Motion to Adjourn 9:25