

Holliston Parks Commission
Wednesday, October 17, 2018
7:00 PM @ 1750 Washington Street

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Attendees: Melissa Kaspern, Tom Chipman, Paul Healy, Shaw Lively, Bob Nemet, Mark Frank, Lisa DiLuzio, Shannon Cornwell, John Cronin, Pat Gibbs

Agenda

- Department Goals with Mr. Cronin
- Pat Gipps to discuss Stoddard Park safety
- Reorganization of parks commission vote
- Stoddard/Pleasure point lifeguard huts
- Fencing issues at Patoma
- New Fertilization and Pesticide Product
- Survey Update/Master Plan
- Fields
- Once Around

Department Goals with Mr. Cronin

Selectman John Cronin joined the meeting to discuss the goals of the department. Concerns that were discussed included the state of Pleasure Point, field maintenance, parking, dugouts not covered, underutilized properties and communications between departments. Two major themes came from the discussion: general maintenance of existing properties and improvements. Mr. Cronin expressed his support of the Parks & Recreation department and encouraged the group to pursue capital expenditures.

The overall maintenance, whether it be seasonal or year-round, needs to be more organized. There has been discussion of a facilities manager position in town that could help with such issues.

Many of the improvement items Mr. Cronin presented are being addressed or evaluated in the Master Plan. The hope is to have the plan completed in the spring and to be able to present at the subsequent town meeting for funding.

Pat Gipps to discuss Stoddard Park safety

Pat Gipps attended the meeting to share her thoughts on safety at Stoddard Park. Ms. Gipps provided the board with a list of safety concerns. Among those items: witnessing drug deals early in the morning, finding people sleeping in the park, people using the woods as a

bathroom, hunting, finding needles, knives and hot coals on the ground. She has spoken to the police and was told they will look into it. If anyone does drive down to patrol, there is no line of sight to the playground or anywhere past the snack shack. She noted that it's not just out of town guests that are adding to the problem. Ms. Gibbs has a background in safety and liability and offered to consult. Perhaps Beals & Thomas can add a risk assessment to the master plan. The board discussed possible solutions and what can be done next. It was suggested that there be more of a police presence all year, especially the summer. Having meeting minutes sent to HPD and that they attend a meeting were also suggested. Mr. Frank is hoping to arrange paid police detail on July 4th and Sundays the rest of the summer.

Re-organization of parks commission

The board voted to make Melissa Kaspern Chairperson and Shaw Lively Vice Chairperson.

Stoddard/Pleasure point lifeguard huts

Quotes for the new lifeguard huts were submitted. An amount of \$6000.00 was approved. The project should be completed this fall by Rich Rossini.

Fencing issues at Patoma

No quotes have been received yet. On the topic of fences, Flagg field has a fence down from a fallen tree and is process of being repaired.

New Fertilization and Pesticide Product

Simply safer was using a special product at Weston Pond and Stoddard because of their proximity to wells. As those wells are no longer in use, they will be changing over to the product they use on the rest of the town fields.

Survey Update/Master Plan

The board was given access to the public survey to be able to read the responses. The survey will be kept open until the Friday, November 2 (after town meeting).

Fields

No further discussion on the fields as they had been discussed at length during the conversation with Mr. Cronin.

Once Around

Mr. Frank and Mr. Nemet noted that Youth Football is charged for two hours of light usage regardless if they are on the field for the entire time or not. Millis flag football is renting the field as well. They were being charged in full time blocks but will be moving back to paying by actual usage.

Damage from portable restroom truck (United Site Services) driving on the fields will be fixed on 10/18 and paid for by Youth Football.

Mr. Lively noted that due to the weather this fall, the Patoma tennis and basketball courts tend to be wet and covered with leaves. Mr. Frank clears the courts before scheduled classes, but further discussion on how to maintain the courts is needed.

Minutes from the 9/6 meeting need to be amended to remove Mark Ahronian from the attendance list. Motion to amend and approve minutes passed.

Mr. Chipman discussed changing the lights on the first floor of 1750 Washington St. He will do a count to see how many are needed and proceed.

Mr. Frank updated the board on the plan for adding boat rentals to Stoddard Park. Ideally, two kayaks, one canoe and paddle board will be purchased for the spring for \$2,500.00. The town lawyer was asked to review a draft of the rental waiver.

Access to the rail trail from 1750 Washington was discussed. Estimates are coming in to see if this project can move forward.

Tom Chipman made a motion to adjourn meeting at 9:14pm, Paul Healy seconded. All in favor