

Holliston Parks Commission
Thursday October 7, 2021 6:15 PM
IN PERSON/REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Attendees: Brian McDonald , Steve Bigelow, Shaw Lively , Melissa Kaspern, Richard Morse, Mark Frank, Shannon Cornwell, Bob Nemet

Agenda

- Votes for meeting minutes for 8/31/21 and 9/16/21
- Directors Report
 - Fall Programming Update
 - Revolving account Update
 - Project Updates
- Commissioner Updates
- Holliston High School Baseball field quote and options-possible vote to proceed
- Blair Square Letter
- Approval Memorandum of Understanding DPW and Parks Commission discussion and vote
- Master Planning timeline and focus assignments
 - Review of 3-year capital projects process
 - Stoddard Park wish improvement/planning session

Mr. Bigelow made a motion to approve the 8/31/21 and 9/16/21 meeting minutes Ms. Kaspern seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Directors report

Fall Programming Update

The popular class Music, Mommy & Me returned this fall. Indoor programming is slow to return yet outdoor programs are going well. The department needs to continue to reach more residents, especially those new to town. If we plan to mail a brochure again, perhaps we include youth organizations to help subsidize cost. It was suggested that we also include links to the town sport websites to help raise awareness of what's available.

Revolving Account Update

The revolving account is showing a slight uptick, as outdoor programming continues to grow. To increase revenue, the department is working on bringing more summer camps in house. Over 700 beach passes were sold for the 2021 season. Swim lessons were not held again this year due to a lifeguard shortage. The new budget line item that passed in the May 2021 town meeting will be utilized in the spring of 2022.

Project Update

Mr. Frank is still awaiting response regarding the Goodwill project from the state.

The Beaver Deceiver has been installed and is working.

A group which consists of the town administrator, Parks, BoH and the Conservation commission. Is working on solutions for invasives and geese. Meetings are ongoing to be prepared to address the issue in the spring. Weed harvesting and other measures are being investigated.

Commissioner report

Mr. Lively

Pump track project is still active. Mr. Lively and Ms. Kaspern are meeting with the group later this month.

The Blair Square project is still in progress, more work is needed.

Mr. Frank shared a quote of \$15,000 to make repairs to the Holliston high school baseball field to make it playable until future developments can be done. Mr. McDonald informed the commission that Holliston Youth Baseball and Softball will be funding the project.

The Blair Square committee is looking for support for funding to carry out further improvements. Mr. Frank prepared a letter on behalf of the park commission in support of the changes to Blair Square. Mr. Bigelow made a motion to approve the letter, Ms. Kaspern seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

The commission reviewed a document detailing the grounds tasks with focus on the frequency in preparation for the MOU working group meeting on October 28, 2021. Further discussion is needed regarding the parks portion of the financial needs resulting from the MOU.

The group put together a list of improvements they'd like to see that were not included in the master plan at a specific site. The improvements by site lists will be updated to show what has already been addressed. Similar to the Goodwill project, a scope for Stoddard Park was developed.

The next meeting will be November 3, 2021.

Ms. Kaspern made a motion to adjourn, Mr. McDonald seconded. All in favor, motion carried.