

Holliston Parks Commission Meeting
Wednesday August 12, 2015
7 pm at 1750 Washington St.

Present: Melissa Kasporn, Art Winters, Paul Healy, Bob Nemet, Kristen Hedrick.
Inge Daniels arrived at 7:12

1750 Washington Street Update

The papers for 1730 Washington Street were signed on Wednesday August 5, 2015. Park & Recreation and Youth & Family Services moved from Central St. to Washington St on Thursday August 6th. Ms. Hedrick stated that Andrea Minihan from the Selectmen's Office was instrumental with coordinating the relocation and that the Highway Department (Bob Nemet and Rick Muzzy) and Chris Meo, Technology Director were invaluable for the move.

Ms. Hedrick stated a meeting with Jeff Ritter the new Town Administrator about the construction and future of the building should be set up. Mr. Healy suggested a tactical first year plan and a five year plan with growth. Ms. Daniels thought the Jon Juhl and Ed Nunes would be a good source for architecture and design.

Ms. Hedrick brought up the direction of the department and asked what the commission wants to see for the future. Ms. Hedrick stated that they could not continue to function with just two thirty hour a week employees. The ideal situation would be to have a 34 hour director, a 30-34 hour program coordinator/assistant and a clerical person at nineteen hours per week. Ms. Hedrick stated that she was checking with the Town Accountant about paying for a part time year round clerical person out of the revolving account would be legal. If it is not an option they would have to go to the finance committee about adding that position to the request to the finance committee. Ms. Hedrick stated that they need to do a needs assessment to prove they need to add additional hours onto the department and has already talked with Jeff Ritter about that. Ms. Hedrick stated that Ms. Korson also would like to reduce her hours to 24 and work three eight hour days. The commission talked about that but decided that she should continue to have the thirty hours and use the FMLA. Ms. Kasporn stated that the department does not want to lose hours we need to increase the position. Mr. Healy agreed stating that we need to look at growth for the future of the department.

Directors Report

Ms. Hedrick stated that the summer has been a great one. The beach has done very well with numbers that are ahead of numbers from last year and we still have to factor in the August numbers. The resident beach sticker numbers that are coming into the lot are up from 2014 which is fantastic. Ms. Hedrick would like to review and adjust the lifeguarding policy for rainy days, the lifeguards are scheduled to work but with the downpours we have not even called them into the lake as they would be soaked and not able to do other tasks to improve the beach. Mr. Winters thought that was a good idea.

Concession Stand

Ms. Hedrick met with the board of Health agent, Scott Moles about turning part of the Stoddard Shed into a concession stand with limited/packaged food. Mr. Moles thought it would work with a few stipulations. Drop ceiling, upgraded electrical, power wash and paint walls & floor, build a half wall and install a mesh screen between the counselor/food side and lifeguard side. Ms. Hedrick thought one freezer and two refrigerators and installing one or two ceiling fans along with two windows with two outside secure roll up windows and a slide plexi glass and slide screen window. Ms. Hedrick would like

to get some quotes for this project. Ms. Daniels thought that would be a great project and addition to the park. Mr. Healy asked who would work the stand. MS. Hedrick explained that she would work the job in with the gate guarding position that way people could rotate through and break up the gate guarding.

Ping Pong Table

Ms. Hedrick found a concrete ping pong table that she would like to look into for Stoddard Park. It weighs about 1,000 pounds. Cost is about \$3,200 and that does not include shipping. This feature would add another piece of fun to the park.

Summary of Programs

Junior Patoma, Senior Patoma and Outdoors at Goodwill were filled the entire summer. There were seven one week sessions offered and the Supervisors and staff have been outstanding the entire summer. We have received a lot of great feedback from parents and they have been positive and that their kids are having a great time. The swim lessons have been very successful, in 2014 we had 30 participants and this summer we had 71 participants with four levels that included a Mommy & Me swim. The lifeguards loved teaching the lessons and we were able to offer three two week sessions. Next summer we will expand a bit further. The beach has been busier this summer. There have been a lot more resident beach stickers through June & July than for the entire 2014 summer. This is a great sign that more residents are buying beach stickers. Ms. Hedrick will have a full report after the season is over. Ms. Kaspern suggested that we put out a press release about the move and future of the building. Ms. Hedrick will start on that next week.

Bennett Medieros stopped by to get his paperwork signed by the Commission. Mr. Healy signed it and let Bennett know what a great job he did clearing the trails and marking the trees for the map he put up on the Stoddard shed.

Field Requests

There was on field request that the group was looking for Stoddard Park for a large group of people for September 6th. This will not be an option for them due to a previous request for a small kids birthday party and youth group use.

Once Around

Ms. Daniels said the Pam Gibbs messaged her that she would like to be included for the next new playground design for the town because she would like to see more handicapped accessible components at the playgrounds.

Mr. Healy asked about signs for the new building. Ms. Hedrick said that the Town is going to bring over the large flashing sign for a few weeks to let people know of the new location. We are also going to bring over the large swinging sign that we have in front of Town Hall to put by the street of our new location. A more permanent sign will be worked on when the construction starts.

Mr. Winters made a motion to adjourn at 8:43 pm, Ms. Daniels seconded. ALL IN FAVOR.