

Parks Commission Meeting
Wednesday 12/13/2023
1750 Washington St or Remote

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

Mr. Bigelow made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 2023 meeting, Mr. McDonald seconded, motion carried.

At this time, the revolving account is at its lowest point of the year. An update is forthcoming. When looking at the list of priority projects, the commission needs to keep in mind the funds available. A \$50,000 allocation has been awarded for design and engineering for the site at 260 Woodland Street and needs to be spent by August 2024.

Project updates:

Holliston High School (HHS) Baseball Backstop - RAD came in with a bid of \$177,000 which includes the 3rd base extension and field repair which gives some flexibility. A \$10,000 incentive to finish by first home game is included in the contract, pending manufacturing of the poles. Mr. Frank, Mr. McDonald met with Mr. Baker and the HHS baseball coach in November to discuss spring plans. Additional work needs to be done such as plywood on the back of the dugouts and painting. A new scoreboard, donated by the Holliston Youth Baseball and Softball Association, will be installed soon.

The variance for the Goodwill Park project was approved by the zoning board of appeals. The site plan review went well with the planning board. The board of health approved the concept of the tight tank. The storm water management plan is outstanding, but in progress. The project is open for bids and they are due 12/20. The goal is to have the project completed by September. Camp Goodwill will most likely be moved due to construction. Access to the playground and tennis courts this spring is contingent on the timeline and scope of the project. The department will keep the community updated on the status of the project through various means of communication.

Mr. Frank has a draft of a survey for how to best use the space on Mayflower Landing. The survey needs to reach as many members of the community as possible and will most likely be sent out early in 2024.

The Flagg School open space plans have been revised based on continuing feedback and Mr. Frank would like to continue moving forward with a survey and soil testing.

Discussion of priorities and goal with the commission:

The commission is actively working on prioritizing the following projects and park improvements. More work needs to be done to determine what is next and feasible. Updates and adjustments will be presented at upcoming meetings.

- Goodwill - in progress, waiting for bids
- Flagg School Space - in progress, site testing and presentations to school committee and community preservation commission anticipated soon
- 260 Woodland - cannot move forward until title work is complete. Mr. Lively made a motion to utilize \$5000 of the anticipated funds allocated to the development of this space to hire the appropriate resources to complete the title search. Mr. Bigelow seconded, motion carried.
- High School Softball - possible capital request
- Stoddard Park
- Stoddard Fields
- Mission Springs
- Pleasure Point Development - needs planning and a vision
- Mayflower Landing - survey the community
- Pickleball - location needed
- Bike park - location needed

Mike Carvalho joined the meeting in support of a bike park in Holliston. The Holliston Bike Park group will be at the First Night event at Blair Square to talk to anyone interested.

The commission is conscientious of maintaining the spaces that currently exist while working to enhance current areas and develop new spaces.

Ms. Cornwell shared an opportunity to have a self renting boat station brought into the park. The upfront investment is a hindering factor in moving forward with something like this at this time.

Mr. Nemet shared that illegal dumping of leaves and yard waste has returned to Patoma Park. The gates will be locked.

Mr. Frank worked with Holliston Youth Basketball and others to create a unified basketball program this winter. The hope is to continue this with other sports in the future.

Mr. Lively shared that tree work has been completed at Patoma Park making the area safer. More work is needed, especially at Stoddard Park.

Mr. Bigelow is looking forward to having the skating rink up and running this winter.

Ms. Kaspern made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44pm. Mr. McDonald seconded, motion carried.