



## Boylston Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes



### Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission

**Date of Meeting: Tuesday, October 4, 2022**

**Time: 6:30 p.m. in the Nicholas Ward Meeting Room**

**Place: Boylston Town Hall, 221 Main Street, Boylston, MA 01505**

- I. Call to Order – 6:35pm by Chairperson, Eric Hoffses
  - a. Members Present: Eric Hoffses, Claudine Underwood, Steve Nason
  - b. Coordinator: Pam Frechette
  - c. Public: Mark Anttila

#### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2022

Before the vote, Pam disclosed she corrected the spelling of Alison's name in multiple places after distributing via email, but that was the only change. Corrected hard copies were given to the Commission before voting.

Vote: *Steve Nason made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Claudine Underwood seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.*

#### III. Disc Golf Update

Claudine received emails with feedback regarding disc golf. She suggested tabling the discussion since citizens expressing concerns were unable to attend the meeting. Claudine said she wanted to make the Commission aware in an open meeting forum that the Hillside Preservation Act group are concerned about the plans for disc golf course. Claudine was hoping for representatives to attend so there could be a discussion. Mark said he was there as a representative for Elaine Jones, but agreed that it should be tabled. Eric said the project is still in the beginning stages. He mentioned that Jeff Turgeon went before the Conservation Commission and will be returning to the Conservation Commission at another meeting in October. Before Parks and Recreation could do anything, we would have to make sure that Conservation has no issues. Eric agreed that it would be good to table it and reminded people that the Commission makes decisions for Parks and Recreation and not necessarily other committees in town. Claudine added that the Parks

and Recreation Commission is not governed by the Board of Selectmen, so concerns about the disc golf course should be addressed to the Parks and Recreation Commission directly for discussion, not other groups or committees.

#### IV. Manor Park

Eric said he's received complaints about the poor condition of Manor Park, noting that Steve Nason had expressed concerns earlier as well. Alison (not present) went to the park to scout a location for the gaga pit and suggested where the spinner is mounted – which Steve Nason mentioned in a previous meeting was broken. Eric said he agrees. It was agreed that the spinner was in poor condition and should not be used. Steve Nason believes it can be taken apart, painted, and fixed. Eric said the Highway Department (Steve Mero) has graciously offered to take it out and see if it can be fixed. Eric mentioned some of the railroad ties at Manor are rotted and chains from swings are broken. Steve Nason said that the picnic table is also in rough shape and pipes could pose a risk – perhaps a couple bags of concrete can fix it?

Pam said she met Alison at the park and Alison was planning to fix or replace the chain on the one swing that was broken. Alison had moved the timbers and nails from the play area, and mulch beneath the swings was very low. Claudine asked if the swings need to be replaced. Pam said she can look into pricing that. Steve Nason said he has some catalogs of six or seven vendors that sell reconditioned chains to save money. Pam said she returned to the office after meeting Alison at Manor, she and called the Highway Department to ask about using mulch from the upper parking lot. She was told that is wood chips and not compliant. Pam called DJ (Davidian) Landscaping to buy playground compliant much and instead he donated it. Steve Nason questioned if the Highway Department still has the chipper for playground mulch. Mark Anttila noted the condition of the courts at Manor are in rough shape and questioned if they should be removed completely. Steve Nason suggested maybe filling it with concrete as a temporary fix. Claudine suggested the Commission pick a day in the spring and ask for volunteers to help do a complete clean-up of Manor Park and work that needs to be done. A list of supplies could be created in the spring. Pam mentioned the balance scale and other items are in the office for the park as well. Steve Nason offered to take apart the pallet the gaga pit is on and move it all to the barn for the winter. It was noted that fabric and playground mulch will be needed for the gaga pit.

#### V. Coordinator Update

The Town Clerk has been working on the room in the basement where Parks and Recreation will eventually be located. She sent over a craft cart for the Parks and Recreation Department that was stored there. It freed up use of a table in the office that can now be used for storage.

Pam asked the Commissioners for their end of term year to update the website. Steve Nason and Claudine's are correct. Update Eric's to 2025.

The proposed Pickleball program is still in flux. Pam is waiting on a meeting with the Treasurer and bank. The way accounts are currently structured, Parks and Recreation shares an account with another department. The suggestion will be to separate the accounts, since Parks and Recreation will have an increase in transactions using myRec.com. There may be fees charged to Parks and Recreation. The meeting should take place soon.

The Pickleball landing page on [Boylstonparks.org](http://Boylstonparks.org) has been updated working with Mark Anttila. The Pickleball waiver outside the gym was updated to add a date field, which was previously missing. The proposed Pickleball program should ensure better waiver compliance if used properly – there's a risk players could share cards, but their names will be written on the cards when they pick them up. The waivers within myRec.com have also been tightened up.

A site-walk with Jeff Turgeon of Worcester Sports Foundation and Town Planner Paul Dell'Aquila regarding the proposed disc golf course was conducted. The course has changed from the original presentation to the Commissioners, due to taking concerns expressed (in the previous meeting) into consideration. Jeffrey was working on updating the presentation. He was out of town for this meeting.

Porta-potties with the new vendor are now at Manor Park, Hillside, and Center Courts.

Meetings have been scheduled with the principals at Tahanto and BES. A meeting of members of MRPA will take place on 10/12. Pam will be off-site for the duration of the meetings. Mark Anttila asked Pam to gauge interest in youth Pickleball from the principals.

The Boylston Police Union posted on social media they made a \$5,000.00 donation to the new equipment at Center Court Park. Eric mentioned he's working on gathering the full list of all groups that contributed. Pam asked if thank you notes are typically sent. Usually, groups are just given a shout out on social media and shared on the Boylston Facebook page. It was suggested that perhaps we send a certificate they can display if they choose. Pam will look into that and also ask for acceptance of the equipment and donation of mulch by DJ Landscaping to the selectboard agenda.

Happenings for September and October went out since the last meeting in a temporary newsletter format.

#### Program Review:

- The sewing class went well, only 3 attended, which was the minimum to run the class. It was during normal working hours.

- Yard Sale had 22 sign-ups and 20 addresses posted (two dropped out). Feedback was positive. Suggestions were to make the core hours longer and to maybe host before the college kids return to dorms.
- Karate was a success. At the end, all kids broke a board. Pam has a meeting with Master Jared to discuss more programming.

#### Future Programs:

- Stargazing was unfortunately rescheduled, due to clouds New date is Friday, 10/7 at 6:30pm. (cleared with soccer)
- Scarecrows on Common for Fall Fest - Pam reached out to the librarian for placement of scarecrows so they won't interfere with Fall Fest. Steve warned about old cemetery that was on the property.
- 10/20 Card workshop
- TBD -Pam reached out to the Veterans' service agent, who put her in touch with the activity coordinator. A drop in 'thank a vet' card day will be scheduled before Veterans' Day and cards turned over for distribution.
- 11/3 Antiques Appraisal show

#### In progress:

- Family Fitness Night over the winter
- Potential Yoga on a weekend or weeknight
- Decided against a Holiday Market, since Tahanto is hosting a similar activity.

#### Questions:

- Letters to Santa – who is the volunteer – Eric will reach out to Crystal
- Does the town do a tree lighting – Per Claudine, no
- Does Parks and Recreation set up an ice rink? – Last year there may have been a problem with the liner and some other equipment. Steve Nason said he would like to see it set up. Eric suggested trying to find it in the minutes and that Alison may know what the problem was. It has been set up at the basketball courts at Center Court before. Steve Nason suggested Manor Park where the skateboard ramps are currently. It was originally built by the Highway Department. Steve Nason said the warm winter was problematic and it had to keep being filled. Claudine mentioned that it looked level, but it was just a bit off which caused some issues.

#### Irrigation:

Steve Nason asked if the sprinkler lines were taken care of. Pam clarified asking the Commissioners that it's Manor Park and Soccer fields only that have irrigation to shut down? Yes. Shut down has been scheduled. There was discussion about the process not

being properly followed last winter. Eric said the irrigation company does their shut down first and then water department knows what to after to ensure it's completely shut down. Eric said last year the problem was the water department was never notified.

#### VI. Budget Update

Budget information was reviewed. The revolving account has grown since last meeting. The budget account was adjusted for a sales tax that was invoiced but not paid, so there was a very small increase.

#### VII. Citizens' Comments (citizens comment were taken last)

(Except in unforeseen or emergency circumstances, any matter presented for consideration of the Commission by a member of the public shall neither be acted upon, nor a decision made the night of the presentation. A scheduled time on a future agenda may be necessary, at the Commission's discretion.)

Mark Anttila representing the Boylston CPA group showed the Commissioners a mailer that was printed and sent to all homeowners in town. He also said signs in support will be popping up in yards. They independently raised \$1000.00 and spent about \$800.00 on the mailing to get the word out.

It was noted that Pam cannot use public time to post information about the CPA because it's a ballot question, therefore no social media posts have been made by Parks & Recreation by Pam.

#### VIII. Future Agenda Items (topics to be proposed for discussion at future meetings) (future agenda items were taken before citizens' comments)

Eric asked for Camp Harrington to be on the next agenda. Paul Dell'Aquila is working on a third quote from LEI in Boylston. And then he will present the information to the board. The first stage, though small, has to involve a design to show the state – like for a path down to the water - signage, and some kind of gate. Steve Nason said he fixed the gate and someone had moved the telephone pole out of the way to bring a vehicle down. Eric said Arielle posted the 'enter at your own risk' signs. Claudine reminded residents to keep their automobiles off the property. Steve Nason said there's large items, like a couch, that need to be cleared out of there. Pam asked if Paul should be invited to the next, Eric said sure. Steve Nason reminded everyone to wear orange as it's hunting season.

#### IX. Adjournment

Vote: *Claudine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Nason seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.*

Respectfully submitted: Pamela Frechette, Parks and Recreation Coordinator