



Boylston Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes



Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

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

Boylston Town Hall, 221 Main Street, Boylston, MA 01505

- I. Call to Order** – 6:33pm by Chairperson, Eric Hoffses
- a. Members Present: Eric Hoffses, Claudine Underwood, Alison Leblanc, Steve Nason, Arielle Strzelewicz
 - b. Coordinator: Pam Frechette
 - c. Public: Jeffry Turgeon (Worcester Sports Foundation), Elaine Jones, Sus Sleczkowski, Nel Lazour (Hillside Restoration Project)

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 4, 2022

Vote: Claudine made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 4th meeting. Arielle seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

III. Disc Golf Update

Eric invited Jeffrey Turgeon of the Worcester Sports Foundation to the front to discuss the latest revision of the Disc Golf proposal. Jeffrey handed out copies of the proposal (dated 10/20/2022). He explained that he did the walk through with the Town Planner (and Pam) since he last attended a meeting. During the walk they discussed utility easements, etc. and they were taken into consideration on the current proposal. In addition, paperwork showing the easements was requested from the Town Clerk's office and reviewed by Bob Bourassa of Hillside Facilities. He agreed the drawing/map of easements on file was correct. In addition, he noted sewer lines and underground electrical conduit not indicated on the maps. This latest version of the proposal shows improvements made to the course based on feedback from meetings, drawings, and discussions.

Jeffrey reported that he went before the Conservation Commission for a second time and the board stated from their perspective, the next step would be to contact the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for a Mass Endangered Species Act

Review (DEP). Jeffrey filled in the application, and it is ready to go pending Commissioner approval. The cost to file the application is \$300.00.

Questions were being asked from the floor and Eric asked for members of the public to hold their questions/comments while the Commissioners got the information they wanted, and then questions/comments from the public would be taken.

Following along with the presentation, questions about the placement of tees/holes were asked. Jeffrey explained that the first hole (starting point) was moved from his previous presentation based on conversations about parking. It now starts across from the lower soccer parking, goes down the hill and back up, then cuts over by town hall and back to the soccer parking area. Arielle indicated that she's a visual person and would like to see it. Jeffrey said he would be happy to do a site walk.

When opened to the public for questions and commentary, questions about "why Hillside" were raised. Jeffrey addressed those saying the combination of existing trails and maintained open space made it a desirable place for a Disc Golf Course. Questions about "why Disc Golf" were answered by Eric and Claudine, both saying that during the pandemic it they were looking for things to do outside and both would have used Disc Golf if it were available. Claudine said it is a good all-ages and low impact activity.

Concerns about litter were again addressed. Jeffrey indicated that trash barrels will be placed along the course and emptied by volunteers.

Concern was raised about parking. Jeffrey indicated that he shifted the course to start across from the lower soccer parking to take away any concerns about taking up spaces near town hall. He said that when most people use disc golf, parking should not be an issue (late afternoons, early evenings, weekends). Parking during soccer games was raised as a concern. Jeffrey said when there is soccer, signage can indicate Disc Golfers should park in the upper lot behind the police station.

Concern from the public about the how long of a commitment the Town must agree to operate the Disc Golf course was raised, since the Worcester Sports Foundation is doing all the work (fundraising, installation, and additional maintenance beyond what is regularly mowed). Jeffrey said there is no limit to how long or how short a period of time it needs to be installed at Hillside. There is no 'contract' per se, unless we would like one. The Worcester Sports Foundation will do the work to remove it, should the town no longer wish to have it. Removal should not take more than a day. Jeffrey does ask that if we request removal, the Worcester Sports Foundation gets to take the baskets to set up elsewhere.

Discussion included the historic nature of the Hillside property. Jeffrey indicated that he sees Disc Golf as an opportunity to highlight some of the history, using the tee/hole signage to communicate that to visitors.

The location of the baskets on the historic portion of the property was discussed. Nel Lazour indicated there is a 12 acre preservation restriction on the property as a protected area by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. One of the slides included in the presentation indicated this 12 acre area, as it was previously discussed with the Town Planner. Nel said she can forward a copy of the deed restriction. Claudine suggested Pam ask April (Town Administrator) for an interpretation of the deed restriction by Town Counsel. Nel suggested that the local Historical Commission be contacted as a first step to the State Historical Commission. Pam said she will reach out to April and the Historical Commission. Pam suggested that it might make sense to hold-off on submitting the MESA application and \$300.00 until we know more from either Town Council or the Historical Commission. It was agreed.

Concerns from the public were raised about the ‘intermingling of activities’ and that Disc Golf should be in a place designated solely for Disc Golf. The question of “what if there is an event at the Gough House, like a concert on the green?”; it was noted that the Parks and Recreation Department will manage and control the course and can indicate a closure during an event hosted by the Hillside Preservation Group (if necessary). Questions regarding liability and injury were asked. From a Parks and Recreation perspective, it does not seem any different than if someone were to get hurt on the playground or ice skating on the Town rink, Pam said.

IV. Camp Harrington Update

Eric announced that Paul Dell’Aquila, Town Planner, has left to accept a position with the City of Worcester. His last day was October 19th. He left some information regarding Camp Harrington with Pam. Pam said the last quote from LEI was received just before the meeting. All vendors quoted the project in phases. Pricing ranged from \$1290.00 for drawings through \$235,000.00 for a completed project with all phases. Paul Dell’Aquila suggested when the last quote came in to meet with April Steward, Town Administrator to discuss proper procurement and funding approaches. Eric asked Pam to meet with April on next steps.

V. Football Porta-potty Bill

(Taken out of order after the Coordinator Report per Pam’s request)

Pam indicated that she is having issues again with United’s invoicing, which became apparent just before the meeting. We were believed to square with billing, but then received a

statement indicating an outstanding balance larger than thought. When called, instead of two outstanding invoices, United said there were six – including three for football and three for Center Court Park. Pam requested copies of all the invoices via email. Upon review, all of them had pricing issues, including charges for tax. In addition, the Center Court Park invoices were not prorated based on pick-up date, nor were they corrected for delivery of the wrong type of unit and then failing to pick up the wrong until when the correct unit was delivered. Pam's contact at United that previously helped correct and sort out invoice issues from the spring was not responding, so it was not corrected before the meeting. Pam will escalate the issue to get it resolved. Pam suggested having only members of Parks and Recreation authorized to order units. Eric noted there are two issues at play and suggested to hold off discussion until the pricing information is corrected.

VI. Coordinator Report

(Taken out of order before discussion regarding porta-potties).

Claudine and Eric's terms have been updated on the Parks and Recreation landing page. Steve's was correct. Alison and Arielle's are needed.

Pam attended the MRPA meeting off-site on 10/12 and came back with a lot of relevant information.

Pam met with Principal Stukuls of Tahanto High School on 10/31. Pam will follow up with Principal Ayles at BES regarding rescheduling their meeting.

The Board of Selectmen voted on 10/11/22 to officially accept the donation of playground equipment for Center Court Park from the many groups that donated and to accept the playground compliant mulch for Manor Park from DJ's (Davidian) Landscape and Construction.

Parks and Recreation happenings for October/November/December went out via email

Program Review:

- Stargazing 10/7 was a success. It was a bit chaotic at first, as clouds and rain rolled in. The talk was moved to under the pavilion. The weather cleared and participants were able to view the moon, Jupiter, Saturn and some of their moons – along with their motion. About 60 people attended. Will try and host again.
- Plant-a-thon – Pam deferred to Alison who reported the Fall Fest and Plant-a-thon were a success.
- Pam reported only one scarecrow was submitted for the contest
- The card workshop was cancelled due to no enrollment

- Trick or Treating at Hillside went well. Librarians Mrs. S and Allyson participated, as well as Town Clerk Dawn Porter, Police Chief Annunziata, and a few officers came out, and Fire Chief Flannagan and Firefighter Ryan. It was a decent turnout and rain held-off. It was filmed. There were only a few photos taken, as several parents opted out.
- Halloween decorating map – only 3 participants, and one picture submitted by not on map
- Cards for Vets has no turn out. May host again at another time.

Upcoming Programs:

- 11/03 Antique Appraisal Roadshow at the Town House 6-8pm
- 12/01 Paint night with Claytime at the Town House 6-8:30pm
- 12/14 Boxwood Tree Centerpieces at the Town House
- Santa's volunteer contacted Pam. Letters to Santa will begin soon
- Reached out to WB Cinema about planning a movie day for 3/27 (PD)
- Reached out to Cyprian Keys about spring golf lessons for youth
- Ice Rink – dimensions? A new liner needs to be added? West Boylston buys from Jerry's. Alison suggested counting the boards, or perhaps the HD or maybe Matt Davidian?

Pam has quotes for various pieces of playground equipment. Do we want to discuss and order, or hold off until spring and clean-up day? Tether ball was less than \$300.00. It was decided to hold off until spring.

The bench for Center Court Park was ordered with gift funds

The wood on the balance scale for Manor Park had a split in it. Pictures were sent to Natural Playgrounds. They shipped out a new main piece.

Community Garden signs were picked up from Connor Graphics on 10/13

The irrigation company winterized the systems at Hillside and Manor Park on 10/7. The water department called and confirmed they shut the water off after. And Bob Bourassa was requested to shut the water off to the community garden; which he had completed prior to asking.

Steve Nason moved the gaga pit to the barn. Bob Bourassa is looking to see if he has a sheet of plastic (12x12) to throw over it.

Pam brought a printout of a "buy a brick" program that could potentially be used to generate revenue for Center Court Park.

There was a request for use of a grill at the pavilion. Eric said that's not something we get involved with.

Unable to locate the Youth Basketball paperwork in the office files

Boylstonparks.org (myrec.com) has had 30 new households sign on since October 1st.

Grants were submitted to the Cultural Council

VII. Budget Report

Pam handed out an updated budget sheet. There was no discussion.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

(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.)

Citizen commentary centered around disc golf. After Mr. Turgeon left, a concern was raised about being a free amenity because Meadowbrook orchards charges \$7 or possibly \$8 and they were packed when visited for a lunch. It was explained that they advertise disc golf as part of their business model to increase food sales either before or after play. They also hosting tournaments.

IX. Future Agenda Items (topics to be proposed for discussion at future meetings)

No discussion

X. Adjournment

Vote: At 8:02pm Arielle made a motion to adjourn. Claudine seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting Materials:

Agenda	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office
Public Attendance Sheet	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office
Disc Golf Proposal dated 10/20/22	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office
MESA/DEP Draft Application	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office
Budget Sheet	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office
Camp Harrington Quote Estimates	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office

Respectfully submitted by: Pamela Frechette, Parks and Recreation Coordinator