



Boylston Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes



Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

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

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

I. Call to Order – 6:30pm by Chairperson, Eric Hoffses

- a. Members Present: Eric Hoffses, Claudine Underwood, Alison Leblanc, Steve Nason, Arielle Strzelewicz
- b. Public: Mark Anttila

II. Coordinator Position Update

Claudine will present this portion. Eric announced he will recuse himself, since the candidate said he (distantly) knows him. Claudine conducted the interview. Claudine said she and Jeff the HR rep met with Ashley McNair. He just moved to town and was looking for something part time because he takes classes. He has a experience working with camps and planning events for schools. He is energetic and Claudine feels he is a good candidate. Both Jeff and Claudine really liked him.

Alison asked if he was familiar with the pay scale. Claudine said he was. Alison said it sounds like Claudine described someone that has computer literacy skills and can also do programming with the community. Claudine said he seems like he would be very cordial to people that would come to the office; he seems very pleasant. She said she made sure to stress that it is mostly administrative work and that it would be a job in the office working, as she fields complaints about having to play phone tag.

Mark Anttila asked if the position would require a CORI check. Claudine said absolutely, the Town would take care of all that. Alison said there is an extensive hiring procedure. Claudine said it would include a physical. Arielle said someone that has done programming in a school before, they would know how it goes with coordinating people.

Steve said he asked for the name and wanted a dossier on them so he could look him up. He said he is voting blindly. Claudine asked what information he needs. Steve said last time he was given an email two weeks ahead with information about who they were going to talk about. Alison asked if he meant a resume and Steve said yes, he would like

a chance to do his own checking. Claudine apologized and said she was busy. Alison said her concern is essentially the Commissioners elected a sub-group to run the background checks so that they could eliminate going into executive session to interview, because if they all participated, they would have to have the interview in an open meeting on camera which could be awkward for the candidate. The only other way to do it would be through executive session.

Claudine pulled the resume up on her phone. Eric said that the process of Eric recusing himself was discussed with Jeff from HR. Alison said she agreed, and the rest of them do not really need to review the information. Claudine showed the resume to Steve on her phone. Steve said he wants to research himself. Claudine said that she is explaining that this is why the town hired an HR person - to do all the background checking and research people. Alison explained that originally they said they would have a subcommittee do it, which would just be Eric to sit in with an HR person, so the reviewing of documents would only really need to be done by them. Arielle said and then it's just really the person-to-person, peer-to-peer meeting, which Alison said would be the chairman. Arielle said the HR department has done all the checking if the person is a creep. Alison said yes, she believes there are a series of interviews first, and then an interview with Claudine, and then the extensive background check is done by HR department after. Claudine agreed. Arielle said because it is a fiscal investment (background check).

Claudine said it cannot be put off another month. Steve asked if they could do a zoom on Friday, and then followed up with saying just vote. Arielle asked if someone wants to make a motion to hire this person, or what the next step here? Eric said yes.

Vote: Arielle made a motion to hire Mr. McNair. Alison seconded. Arielle, Alison, and Claudine voted in favor. Steve voted no. Eric abstained (recused). Motion carried.

III. Camp Harrington Update

Eric said he has no updates as it's currently with the Conservation Commission. Steve said he was there with the State and they did a small inspection with some botanists that said how lucky we are, as some of the indigenous plants haven't grown together for years. It's like a hotspot of never being touched. There's some Asian honeysuckle that has to be removed and we can continue to just keep cutting it down. And along the stream edges there's some sort of garlic that's invasive that will kill everything else and can be just be continually pulled, and there's one thing Steve said he will have to talk to the environmental police about and he'll leave that for another day. Arielle asked if there was any commentary about bittersweet. Steve said there's somethings that could stay, like hickory nut, as it feeds the animals. And to take any trees other than invasive ones will be a big deal. Steve said the work they were doing down there was just dumping roots and

not taking them out, but covering them with bark mulch and it will just keep growing through. Arielle said the take back process and land reclaiming is interesting. Sometimes it can be planting sprouts one year and it can sometimes be really combative – but we'll get there.

Arielle asked what was going on with the Conservation Commission. Mark Anttila said he attended the meeting. He said the Greater Worcester Land Trust asked for a variation on the order of conditions to eliminate the need to do work at both ends of the hill until it's stable. The Conservation Commission agreed. They're pushing dirt up against the slope so it's not as steep and it looks like they have ½ the dirt moved. Steve expressed concern about bark mulch sliding and that they took trees out from there. Mark said the Conservation Commission feels those hills are stable, maybe because there's not a lot of run off there. Arielle said she's looked into remediation with Bower Springs over in Bolton and there's all different plants you can purchase and plant specifically to prevent erosion that has good ground coverage and root coverage. Mark said the Worcester Land Trust said it's costing them money, because some of the work is beyond the scope of what the developer agreed to do, but they feel it's important to get it done. Alison asked if there was a deadline. Mark said he thought it was June 1st for the Selectmen to make a decision. Eric agreed.

IV. Budget Update (End of Fiscal Year 6/30)

Eric said the end of the fiscal year is June 30th. A gift account can be kept rolling until needed. Then there's a revolving account and regular allocated budget account. The budget account is earmarked for porta-potties and such. Then there's the revolving account that includes any funds coming into to Parks and Recreation from programming (youth leagues, pickleball). At the end of June, anything more than \$10,000.00 goes back to the Town's general fund. We keep anything less than \$10,000.00. Last year, there was about \$8000.00 left. This year, it's unclear, but somewhere around \$2,000.00-\$3,000.00 left. Eric will check with Ninotchka (Town Accountant) for a balance and will email the board. Eric said last year the extra money paid for steps at Hillside for access to the pavilion/fields. Eric reached out to Mark Anttila to see if pickleball needed anything.

V. General discussion of condition of town properties overseen by Parks & Recreation Commission, including signs for garden, Manor Park/center court items (Alison)

Eric said he's gotten comments about Manor Park and how no new equipment has been added. Claudine said she thought once the master plan was approved, we could get grant funding and just sweep and do. Arielle said if it's all that old, we should apply for grants and do it all at once as long as there's swings. Alison said there's swings, a big slide, a merry-go-round, sandbox and climbing equipment for toddlers – and that everything was

just redone and painted by the Boy Scouts. Alison said she and her husband replaced all the chains about six or seven years ago. Everything with the swings and slide are solid.

The one suggestion she talked with Eric about is putting a gaga pit up there that can be moved if needed. Eric said Crystal had priced it out with a few companies and there was one around \$1300.00-\$1500.00. Eric said the price went up a little since then and it's definitely an option. Alison said one thing she'd love to have – since the original plan was to have a nature playground with involves things like stumps at different heights to stand on and boulders to climb on and things like that. When the park designers came, the one thing they mentioned was an area with river rocks – a dry river bed. The Boy Scouts tried to do that, but since the river stone is expensive, they filled the sandbox with crushed rock. Alison said when she was at the Discovery Museum, they had a balance scale. She thought it might give the rock area a purpose and it is around \$200.00. She also learned that someone had purchased some trucks and they have held up well. If we got the scale and pails, and trucks, it would probably be under \$300.00. Alison said the balance scale would give the rocks the Scouts donated a purpose.

She also said she's meeting with a representative from New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill and they would like to donate a small, native shade tree to Center Court Park because there's no shade at the park. There's also no place for the adults to sit, right now they sit on the ten-spin. She said the tree would be free, but the bench is expensive. If we could do everything this year, that would be really nice. The Andersons had purchased some very solid memorial benches at Hillside and she reached out to the same vendor and hasn't heard back. She checked Home Depot and a similar bench was \$1200.00. Mark asked about putting a picnic table up there. Alison said there's currently two, and one is near the fence and the other is handicap accessible and is near the parking lot. Mark asked where they will plant the tree. Alison said that's why she need to meet with them to be careful about not shading the courts because the shade causes them to stay wet and get damaged quickly. She said they also need to be careful about not planting too close to the playground equipment, because there needs to be a buffer, and to make sure not to interfere with mowing.

Alison said we have all this money, but it's not enough for all of the things. Steve suggested topping the rocks with play sand. Alison said there's a beautiful sandbox right next to the rock area. She's seen rock boxes done two different ways, with pea stone to measure and pour, or river stone. Arielle said since the Boy Scouts spent the money and time doing that, she would prioritize the bucket and since someone's donating a tree, prioritize the bench. Alison asked if they could dip into the \$10,000.00. Eric said yes, and that part of the programming budget has not been used since there hasn't been a coordinator, so those funds could be used. Eric will get exact figures from Ninotchka, the Town Accountant. The items may all be do-able.

Steve suggested cultured river stone (whipped concrete) since they are lighter than rocks but look like rocks. He said you could get them at a masonry place or online, or maybe shredded tires. He said they have them at the school in Hudson.

Mark asked if the revolving account can be built up rather than going away? Can it be put on the warrant to be allowed to do that? Eric said it was explained to him and it is a complicated process and regulated by the state. Mark said CPA can hold onto funds. Eric said he will get an accounting from the Town Accountant and see what they have, if Alison could make a list, Eric can compare it against funds and see where they're at. Arielle asked what Alison's top three priorities for the parks would be? Alison said accessories for Center Court to go with the trees, but she feels like Manor Park needs things as well. She looked into buying grind rails and quarter pipes for Manor Park, but if they're not playground grade and installed, they run the risk of breaking or being stolen. They are \$660+ for a home quality quarter pipe. Alison said the kids are out building their own and buying them can't be done with our budget. Mark said the surface at Manor Park is so bad. Alison said at least if we can do a gaga pit at Manor Park that will at least be something to show we do care. Alison also asked for tether ball, since that's easily installed and can be moved later. Steve suggested to affix the gaga pit to the ground at Manor Park so it won't catch wind. Alison explained that it was only knee height. Alison also said that when she was assigned Manor Park for town-wide clean-up day, there was nothing for her to clean. The baseball teams that rent Manor Park are to tidy, they leave the park clean. So to do something for those families that use that park would be good. Arielle pointed the area is such a dense neighborhood with lots of children and it's very accessible, unlike Center Court Park.

Alison said she noticed at Center Court that children and parents are walking to the park after they leave the library and she thinks it would be great if they had a bench. Eric said they've been talking about it since he's been on the board and that they should follow through with it. He thinks there's a good shot to get it all and advises they should look at numbers, get all the information, then at the June meeting they'll have to be ready to order things shortly after the meeting to get the invoice on the books for the fiscal year end. He clarified that if they spend and dip below the \$10,000.00 he doesn't think it's a big deal. He also said a group from town is renting the gym every Sunday morning for the next year, which brings in revenue of roughly \$3,000.00 that we were not getting before. That goes right into the revolving account. Eric asked them to pay May and June upfront, then pay July later so it goes into the next fiscal year.

Alison said if you drive through Northborough or other CPA towns and see all they're doing, and here she's crying over a bench. Arielle said she drives through Hudson into Sudbury and through Lexington seeing all the kids biking to school...when you see the money it's worth it. Steve said people in the town privately bought land and with the

town, and they moved gas pipes to have the trails to walk. Alison said the town voted unanimously to put CPA on the ballot in Boylston for November. She said we met step one, but there's still Mount Everest to go. She said it was a big win and unanimous. She said the questions asked were detail oriented, but supportive. She said the townspeople understood that if we preserve some of these areas, we could stem the tide of tax hikes and have less development and things like that. It was positive.

Steve suggested the Commission decide and vote today on what they want to buy since it's a couple weeks before the deadline (end of fiscal year) instead of waiting. He said the benches can be made in house with a concrete form and the boards slip through. You'd need like four people to move it and set them out there with a couple screws. Mark said there must've been something driven into the ground to hold it. Alison said she learned that the bench we have is solid and on two slabs of wood is what they anchored it to, and it seems to be sitting on top of the mulch. She's not sure there's something driven down into the ground. Mark said he saw in Shrewsbury there are two foot extensions on the ones they are installing at the Senior Center in Shrewsbury.

Alison said the community gardens are almost entirely rented and two different families contacted her to do gardens for the food pantry. She said when she was out there loading the stuff in the gardens, food pantry workers came over and asked if anyone would be willing to donate a bench. Alison suggested signs like at the trail heads that the Boy Scouts bought, they look like state park signs that look wooden, but it's a composite. It's brown carved with yellow lettering. Alison contacted the company that made them and they provided a quote to make one that says 'Community Garden' but the food pantry would like one too because they said they have no signage. They don't have one and that way they would all match. She said they are \$185.00 each. Alison said she would have to check in the office to see if the posts are still there. Alison said they are 4x4s and get cemented in with ready mix. Alison said she would like to buy at least the sign for the community garden. She said the food pantry people were talking about paying for their own. She quoted two signs and they would be the same style, size, and material.

Arielle said she would be interested in seeing how much money we have. Eric asked what the quote for the bench was. Alison said she doesn't have one yet, but the one from Home Depot was \$1200.00. She's working with a vendor that we already have a relationship with that had worked on the Hillside playground previously in 2000. Mark offered to ask what Shrewsbury paid for the ones at the Senior Center. Arielle asked if we should see if someone might want to make a memorial bench? Alison said we can as long as we don't directly ask for a donation, but it's a good idea. Alison said the quote for a memorial bench is more than a regular bench because there is a space for a plaque and then the plaque. Alison said she got information from a previous coordinator, Kare, on who they used when the ones at Hillside were purchased. Arielle said that someone that might be

considering it may have no idea how to go about it. Alison suggested putting it on the Facebook page and Claudine said it could be shared to the Neighbors' pages. Alison also said it could be put on the light bill, but let's start small. Eric said we can do an email blast. Alison said an email blast can be sent from the myrec.com account and explained that only admin can see the information in the program.

Alison asked if the signs could be ordered since the garden is going. Claudine asked for both? Arielle asked if the food pantry should pay for their own sign. Alison said it can be purchased, and if they opt out of it, it can be used at the established food pantry garden. Alison said she'd like to buy both of them. Claudine said she's all for helping the food pantry. Steve suggested it could be used with the baskets as well. Alison said she's supposed to be meeting with Linda at the food pantry to see if there's a spot where they will be able to put in some wooden bins to put produce in the food pantry. Alison wondered if that could be put out there. Alison said she met with Gigi Stowe, who runs the farm across from Tahanto, offered to donate the seedlings for the food pantry. Some residents offered to care for those seedlings. Arielle said that some trade schools might have time now to do something like that since they're winding down and looking for end of year feel good projects. She said maybe Parks and Rec could purchase the materials and have them make them if no one steps forward to save on the labor. Alison said she's not sure how much room there is and how large the bins should be, explaining they slant down and have a piece of wood to keep them from rolling out - maybe a half a dozen to stack 3 on 3. Claudine said it's really a tight space and wondered if they could put it in the hall when they're open? Alison said that may be best, to have a volunteer pick them fresh on Monday morning. Alison said some of the customers of the food pantry are less mobile and if there's bins available, they wouldn't have to walk over to the garden. Alison said she designated the two gardens closest to the food pantry for them, but that may still be challenging for some because of the uneven ground. Arielle suggested that if there's excess it can be donated to a soup kitchen and mentioned the Berlin Unitarian Church. Claudine mentioned the St. Joan of Arc on Lincoln Street in Worcester does too. Alison said if there's extra at the end of shopping hours, if there's extra, maybe one of these groups can come over and get the leftovers at 12:30pm on Mondays when the pantry closes.

Vote: Alison makes a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$400.00 for signage for the food pantry and community garden. Eric seconded. All vote in favor.

Arielle asked if the food pantry has their own commission board. Claudine said it used to be run by the Police Department, but now the First Congregational runs it through their Christian Outreach Group and Carla Peterson oversees it. They have volunteers that go in every Monday. Eric said he will need an official invoice for the signs. Eric said if anyone has any other ideas before June, to bring it up.

Arielle asked if the goal is to spend down. Eric said yes, at least the \$10,000.00 otherwise we lose it. Alison said she will come to the next meeting with quotes, they can total it all up and order them that evening. Eric asked for the quotes ahead of the meeting. Arielle said she thought it would be fun to have a Summer Fest for the kids with water balloons and simple treats to start the summer. Alison said Crystal put in a grant from the Cultural Council that got approved, but she's not sure what it was for. Eric mentioned one was for Cosmic Kelly and rather than a stand-alone event, that could be made part of a bigger event. Alison said they've done things like an ice cream social. Eric said also when the fiscal year starts, we get an influx back into the programming budget of \$2,000.00 a year. Arielle said she was trying to catch people before they left for vacation.

VI. General Discussion and vote to have town counsel draft documents to define that there is no monetary compensation for members of the Commission of Parks & Recreation

When Claudine was leaving the interview with the coordinator candidate, she was called into the Town Clerk's office and informed that Steve Madaus, Town Counsel, spoke to her and would like to have the Commission's approval to draft a document that defines there's no monetary compensation for members of the Commission of Parks and Recreation. It's all included in Town Bylaws, but this would be something that everyone is going to sign as soon as they accept office.

Alison asked what the bylaw is now. Claudine said she's not sure, but she asked the Town Clerk exactly what it meant. Claudine printed off the explanation and gave it to everyone. Claudine said it's very clear in the town bylaws that there's only two boards that are paid and that's it. Alison said the document she has (annual report) shows everything the town pays out. She said she's on page 55 and it's set up by department. The line item for Parks and Recreation only shows a line item for Crystal Byron's salary (the former coordinator) and that's the only thing for Parks and Recreation. She said Council on Aging has six people they pay out to. Alison said it looks like Commissioners just don't collect a salary.

Claudine said the other boards that are paid is only about \$1,000.00 per year. Steve said the Cemetery gets like almost \$300.00 for gas and paperwork. Claudine said that's different department, they actually maintain the properties just like the Highway Department. Steve said the Parks and Recreation is it at the top and the other things are divisions of it. Claudine said no, we don't oversee any of that. Steve said it's supposed to. Claudine said not per the Town Bylaws. Steve said it's not really bylaw-able. Alison said that it could be that each municipality handles it differently. Steve said when he was 19 and the only Commissioner for Parks and Recreation, he got compensated. He'll have to go back and look for stuff from the eighties. Claudine said they must have changed it

then. Steve said when he was on the Cemetery, they got \$7.10 per month. Alison said on page 4, it lists the elected town officials, and the five commissioners are listed as board members. She said it indicates Eric is the Chair and has the other 4 commissioners listed under that. (Claudine left the room to see if she can find another copy of the Town Report). Alison said under the salary listing, there is not any listed for the Commissioners, just for the employee. Steve said knowing how things work, they should only draft something that says they need to be paid. He said don't ever say no, we don't, because then they'll say well, they don't want it. Alison suggested waiting until Claudine returns before continuing to talk about it. Alison asked why they need to vote on it, as it seems like a Town Clerk issue. Steve said there's something wrong about it. It's a trick question.

Alison said it was described to her as a volunteer position when she came on. Steve said he was told he was to be paid. Alison asked this year or when he was on before? Steve said this year. He said technically he can't even sign the paperwork to get the paperwork for Camp Harrington without being a paid member of the town. Alison said the paperwork for Camp Harrington is signed by the Selectboard, as only the Selectboard can acquire property for the Town. Claudine came back and said that is correct. Steve said the paperwork he got us to be able to get the grant. Alison said the grant was submitted by Eric and Mr. Dell'Aquila. Steve said he got all the historical stuff. Alison said the grant submission was signed by Paul Dell'Aquila. Claudine said there are employees that do that. Eric said he signed something (for Camp Harrington), but he didn't think the whole board needed to. Claudine said no, he just needed to sign as chair. Alison asked if this was a Clerk Office request or a Park's Office request. Claudine said Town Counsel asked if the Town Clerk could talk to the Commission since he's not a full-time employee where he would be able to see one of the Commissioners if they came in. He wants to do this on the Commission's behalf to make sure there's no confusion in the future that this is a non-paid, elected position.

Alison said what happened a several years ago is that it was published there was an open seat on the Commission and a gentleman came in saying that he was interested in the position, but there was no description of what the position was. He was presenting ideas he had for children's programming. Alison said he came for several meetings, and they thought his ideas were great. When Claudine came for one of the meetings, she said if he was going to volunteer then maybe he should do it. And he said no, he didn't want to volunteer, but rather would take 70% as a fee-based program and donate 30% to the Parks Department for hosting him. At the time, they were told he couldn't be a board member and receive compensation, as it's a conflict of interest. Instead, he became an associate board member, so he didn't have voting power, but could be hired and take compensation for the work he wanted to do. And Claudine was put in the open position on the board. Alison said it was confusing.

Claudine said if there's any question about being hired, just like they had to do with the new coordinator, they would have to be meet with the candidate and conduct an interview if any of the seats were per-se a paid position. And Arielle said it would also be a CORI-able position at that point, especially if there was any potential for interaction with...Alison said you mean once we hire this gentlemen? Yes, background checks will be done. Claudine said if the Commissioners were paid positions, they would have to the same thing every time there's someone new on the commission. Arielle said like a hiring process. Claudine said right, and there's no hiring process here. Alison said she's not sure how it applies to elected officials. Claudine said right, it makes no sense. Steve said not necessarily; he had to go before the Selectmen and say that he wanted to run. Claudine said he didn't, it was nice he did, but he didn't have to.

Steve said he was asked to run. Claudine asked by who stating he keeps saying he was asked to come in by them. Steve replied, by your husband. Claudine said he's lying and she is going to call him into the next meeting, actually the whole board to theirs, if Steve would like and he can say that to them directly. Claudine said the first time her husband talked to Steve was when Steve ran and her husband gave him a ride home. That he had never talked to her husband. Steve said no. Claudine announced she was going to leave and thanked the Commissioners. Claudine left the meeting.

Alison said another thing that might be helpful is on page 22, which shows the results of the May 2021 election, showing 2 seats open each for 3 years. They didn't have any candidates, they were all blank, but they had write-ins: Maureen, Alison, Steven and Eric (not Hoffses). Alison said she did not come in first, Steve did. She came in second and there were two open seats, so they each got a seat. Alison said this is the way that it's recorded in perpetuity by the clerk. Alison said it's highly possible that it's a miscommunication, as she was describing before with the gentleman before, they thought he wanted an open seat, but he wanted to be hired. She wondered if it was something similar.

Steve said Alison is getting off topic. Alison said not really. Steve said they were supposed to have a vote to define that there is no monetary compensation, but they should have a vote that there should be. Arielle said in an ideal world, yes, but these programs don't get funding or money as it is. Alison said she could not take money. Arielle agreed.

Eric said it's too bad that Claudine left because he's confused about the whole agenda topic and why someone came to her. Eric said he feels if someone wants them to sign something they should come in and talk to the board. He's not saying he wouldn't sign it, but he doesn't understand the intent. Arielle said she thinks it's to have that piece of paper become part of the onboarding process stating they understand they won't receive compensation; in the same way they have to do the conflict-of-interest training.

Allison asked that if when the cemetery guys are sworn in, they're given some paperwork explaining their compensation? Steve explained they're compensated. Alison asked, but they would receive documentation of their compensation? Arielle said there would be some sort of documentation. She then asked Steve is he had to give someone his social security number? He said yes, he was a fire fighter and everything. Arielle so no, when he was under the assumption he was hired to this board? Steve said no, they still had his paperwork. Arielle said that's a different packet of information. That would be a discrete package from when he was with the Fire work. This would be when you started Parks and Rec, they would hand you a W-2 for taxes. Steve said you don't get W-2s. Alison said her daughter did. Arielle said you absolutely do. Steve said no, because you get paid at once. Arielle said you get paid in a lump sum and it's non-taxed? Arielle said doesn't believe the IRS wouldn't tax an income because they were taxing unemployment. Steve said you get paid a salary and he had to get a pin number from the treasury that's different than his social security because this was supposed to be a paid position. He said he had to answer a thing on the computer to be the commissioner of Parks and Rec, not to be on the committee and that's why. Steve said then why in the three years that you had all that paperwork then why didn't anyone do all the stuff with the Historical Society and send all the stuff to the Secretary of State? Arielle what he meant? Steve said he had to do all this paperwork to give to Paul (Town Planner) to go for the grant. Arielle asked if Paul (Town Planner) is the person he's been speaking to about all of this. Steve said no, he can't hire anyone. Arielle clarified, but you gave paperwork to Paul. Steve said yes. Arielle asked Steve if he asked Paul what the status of his paperwork, what did he say. Steve said he had to inspect the property and prove there were no archeological concerns with the Historical Society and stuff.

Alison said she wondered if it what may have happened is that Steve said he was there to do some work on behalf of the Parks and Recreation, and Paul (Town Planner) said great and gave him some stuff to do. She said they all do that kind of volunteer work all the time. She said Eric's been doing tons of paperwork the last few months and she's researched stuff for the park at the Center of Town, getting quotes and such, but knowing she was a volunteer. She wonders if Steve went to Paul thinking he was going to be compensated and Paul thought he was there asking how he could volunteer. Steve said he has nothing to do with pay. Steve said he left a job to do this job because he was told going to be paid. Alison asked how much they told him he was going to be paid. Steve said it's none of her business. Alison said it is, because they are all the same, and she wants to get paid. She's been volunteering for seven years. She suspects the whole thing comes down to a miscommunication which is why Mr. Madaus wants it all in writing, to avoid miscommunications.

Arielle asked if Steve would rather be an associate member so he can be a hireable person for them. Steve said that's not what he went for. Alison asked if he wants the volunteer

position. Steve said he has no idea right now. Arielle said logically speaking, he and Alison ran for the same seat. It's a small amount of votes for a paid position, and there wouldn't be write-ins for a paid position like that. Arielle said she thinks there was a miscommunication at some point and if he thinks he's getting paid, that's not the case. She feels bad, because everyone's hours are valuable and if he can't spend those hours volunteering, that's fine. She wouldn't want him to think he's getting a chunk of money as he keeps toiling away, not getting the compensation he thinks he should.

Steve said he applied for the position on the computer, and he had to go to the Selectmen's office and they haggled about price, but he hasn't been compensated yet. Arielle said when you negotiate a job offer you get an email with an employment offer showing compensation and range of dates. She said if that's the case, he should have that on his end stating what they were willing to give. She said if he has that, he has a case.

Steve said he already has a thing stating he can sue from the Attorney General. Alison said the burden does not lie with the board. She said the business with the board will be for him to decide if he wants to be a volunteer because they need five. Currently they have four, and someone that feels misled because it's not what he thought. She asked again if he would like to be an associate instead because they need five members. Steve said no, they are stuck with him for two more years. Alison said they are happy to have him, only if it is with the understanding that they are all volunteers.

Steve said they still need to do something with the article. Arielle said they need to still get clarification on it. She doesn't feel comfortable voting on something she doesn't fully understand. She said she thinks she understands what is intended, and if it's what she thinks it is, she will vote yes. She said taking money as a Commissioner of Parks and Recreation isn't appropriate. Steve said it's completely appropriate. Arielle said she disagrees. She said volunteering is one of the things you do to be a good community member and the bottom line is that it's a volunteer position. She would suggest Steve become an associate member so he could be hired to do jobs. Eric said they could pay Steve to do jobs like putting together benches.

Steve said the treasury said he can't work for the town. Alison said it's because he's a board member. Eric said he would have to resign and then they could hire him to do things. Alison said Steve's contributions have been valuable, with knowledge of conservation, and the board could sincerely use it; but what's holding them back right now is the huge mix-up. Steve said it was a plan, not a mix-up. Steve said this is the third time. Last time they arrested him and put him in jail for ten days so he would lose the position. Alison said Steve knows so much, but the position that might be better for him is an associate member. Eric said they don't need an answer tonight but it's something for Steve to think about.

Eric said he's fine signing something like that, since he hasn't been paid, but he wants to know exactly what it is before signing. Arielle stated that documenting things for yourself is so critical. Alison asked what if they pass something authorizing Mr. Madaus to write something they can look at. Arielle said the vote is asking to have Town Counsel to draft something to present to the Commission. Steve said if they draft something, they won't ever see it again until it's implemented. Arielle reiterated that she doesn't feel comfortable voting for something she doesn't completely understand and suggested to table it for the next meeting.

- VII. Citizens' comments:** (Except in unforeseen or emergency circumstances, any matter presented for consideration of the Committee 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 Committee's discretion.)

None

VIII. Adjournment

Vote: Arielle made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Eric. All in favor. Motion carried. Adjourned 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Pamela Frechette, Parks and Recreation Coordinator using meeting recording.