



Boylston Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, February 7, 2023

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. Commission Members Present: Eric Hoffses, Claudine Underwood, Alison LeBlanc.
- b. Commission Members Late: Arielle Strzelewicz (6:36pm)
- c. Commission Members Absent: Steve Nason
- d. Coordinator: Present (Pam Frechette)
- e. Public Attending: Sarah Barrette (BOH), Mark Anttila,

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Claudine asked to add members absent to the January 3rd, 2023 minutes.

***Vote:** Alison made a motion to accept January 3, 2023, May 3, 2022 and June 7, 2022 minutes with corrective action to January 3, 2023 minutes (as discussed, add members absent). Seconded by Claudine. All in favor. Motion carried.*

III. Board of Health – Sunscreen Dispenser Program

Sarah Barrette, RN and Board of Health Chairperson, was present to discuss the proposed sunscreen dispenser program. She explained that Boylston is part of the Greater Boroughs Partners for Health, along with Northborough, Southborough, and Westborough. Northborough wrote a grant good for 3 years and Boylston and the other towns benefit from it with nursing support. Part of the GBPH includes an epidemiologist, Isabella, that helped track Covid-19 and flu numbers. She has a special interest in melanoma and is recommending the program that to address it (Impact Melanoma).

Sarah said she asked for \$6,000.00 extra in the Board of Health budget to get Impact Melanoma up and running in Boylston. Impact Melanoma is a nationwide non-profit based in Salem. They have added over 7,000 sunscreen dispensers nationwide and are seeing a decrease in melanoma in those areas. Melanoma is the 5th leading cancer in men and women. Sarah said that six parks were identified in Boylston as candidates for this program, though the Greater Boroughs doesn't have money to fund the program. She thought of maybe doing a pilot program and have people/businesses sponsor it. The dispensers would have to be mounted, refilled regularly, and taken down in the fall – so the DPW would probably need to help.

She said if we did a pilot program, maybe we could try it in two parks. The program is also more than just sunscreen dispensers. It includes lip balms, pamphlets, and infant programs that distribute protective

clothing – so the program serves newborns through seniors. She is going to ask about getting a table at the Boylston Memorial Day Program. She will continue to collect information about the program but wanted to know what the Commission thought. Pam asked if the \$6,000 includes the refills. Sarah said yes for two years. And it also covers two acts of vandalism. Sarah said she thinks it's a good idea to move forward and she's willing to do whatever she can to help. Eric said he thinks it's a great idea, but being able to secure the funding for it is a big part of it. If funding can be obtained, it's a no brainer in his opinion. Arielle and Claudine both said they liked the idea.

Claudine pointed out that as a government commission, the board doesn't have the ability to go out and ask for money/sponsorships. Sarah will get more information on how that all works from Isabella, as the woman that runs Impact Melanoma stated they can solicit sponsorships.

Arielle said she wonders if it's something can be put out to ask for a volunteer that could do some fundraising? Maybe someone that could pick a day (melanoma awareness day or something) and do a fundraising event with prizes.

Claudine said Center Court and Manor Park came to mind as parks to start with. Alison said she thought of Manor but also thought of vandalism and how it's difficult to watch Manor because it's secluded. Hillside came to her mind because of soccer and the sun beating down. Arielle asked if vandalism has been a problem at Manor. Alison said it used to be when the 'Cinderella pumpkin' was there, but not a big problem now.

Dispensers can be mounted on buildings/fences and Claudine recommended a spot that has good lighting like the fence at Manor. It was noted that Hillside doesn't have good lighting, but it near the police station.

Alison asked if the dispensers have to be placed out of direct sun in a shaded spot, so the sunscreen doesn't degrade. Sarah said she didn't know, but would ask. Arielle thinks if they aren't clear be fine. Claudine suggested samples to hand out at games would be a good way to gauge interest. Sarah said she'll see about getting samples of sunscreen and lip balms. Mark Anttila asked if it was a grant. Sarah said it is not. Sarah said we can ease into it and see if we can get samples. She'll make a request for April/May (start of sports). Arielle said the library would most likely be happy to offer samples in a basket. Alison asked if a business sponsors the program if their logo/name could be added. Sarah said yes. Claudine suggested Fed-ex as a potential sponsor. Alison said if we start with a couple and see how it goes before adding more, that would be a good idea.

Sarah said she would follow up on the questions and wanted to know what the board thought about putting it on Facebook. Eric suggested holding off until the questions were answered and then go from there. Arielle noted Monday, May 1st is Melanoma Monday by the American Academy of Dermatology.

Sarah said the Commission is welcome to reach out to her with any questions. She will get the answers to the questions and report back.

IV. Disc Golf Update

Eric said there was a meeting of the Disc Golf group the week before that he and Arielle attended. A member of the group is an arborist and obtained permission from the Town (Steve Mero approved) to take down some dead trees at Manor Park. The group established multiple subcommittees – fundraising, trail design, and trail clean-up. Pam made a Facebook post announcing the work being done so that people walking the trails would be aware of what's happening. Alison said one person commented on Facebook they were going to pull some of the ribbons/tag down until they saw the post, so we might want to think about putting up signs for people that aren't on social media. Pam said she would ask Jeff about that. Mark offered some signs the Commission can use. Eric said as soon as it gets warmer, the group will start doing more work. Pam added that a trails grant (previously discussed) was submitted, and they will hear back in July. And they (Pam and Jeff) will go before the Historical Commission again on the 16th to ask if they would like to take part in writing the historical part for the signs.

V. Pickleball Update

Mark Anttila submitted Pickleball equipment requests via email that was circulated to the Commissioners. Mark stated that Bob added some command hooks to the hall for players to hang their coats. He also noted the abundance of items in the lost and found box. Pam said she posted the lost and found to Facebook and Bob was looking for a bigger box.

Mark said he'd like to get Certificates of Appreciation for Selkirk, Engage, and Franklin Sports. Both Selkirk and Engage donated more than \$1500 worth of paddles each.

Mark mentioned it would be nice if the Police Academy didn't use the gym during April vacation. Eric said there were a lot of people that inquired about time during vacation. Claudine wondered if the Parks Commission could use the BES gym. Mark said he would try and run some family Pickleball programs on the weekends during spring break. Claudine asked if there were beginner sessions. Mark said every Tuesday/Thursday from noon-2pm Marie runs beginner sessions and he might try and add some on the weekends.

Mark asked if basketball was done? Eric said on the weekends they are. Mark asked if Eric could find out what weeknights they are done using the gym. Eric said they are still working on figuring that out. Alison mentioned that other organizations running spring sports like to reserve time in the gym as well and wondered if we've seen anything from them? Pam said there are some dates for soccer. Eric said that lacrosse is running clinics the end of February. Mark asked if someone spoke to lacrosse about putting something on the sticks to keep them from marking floors. Eric said not yet.

Mark mentioned that it seems a lot of food or drink being consumed in the gym (besides water) despite the signs. Eric said he responded in an email about that, saying there's been one issue in 10-12 weekends of basketball with multiple games each day. Arielle said it's probably parents with younger siblings during games. Claudine suggested asking parents to take kids out to the hallway. Eric added there are two chairs in the hallway where people can sit. Mark asked if something could be sent to the basketball community. Eric said he could, but the season ends over the coming weekend. Pam said she will make the font on the signs outside the gym bigger. Mark suggested moving the two trash barrels in the hall next to each other near the door, noting he's found trash in the lower level. Claudine suggested putting information together

in an email at the beginning of the basketball season to remind people. Alison suggested it as a topic for a future meeting in the late fall.

Mark asked about updates on the floor project. Eric said he followed up and has not heard back, so it's not clear how long it will take. And he'll also have to find a spot when the Police Academy has a break. Arielle suggested trying to schedule when there's a cheaper rate.

Mark submitted requests for Pickleball equipment via email. He's asked for a ball throwing machine that holds 75 balls and could potentially help generate revenue. He's also requesting cabinets, but the Police Department may be getting rid of some. There are other items on the list as well. Mark said Pickleball brought in about \$11,000.00. Eric referred to the budget sheet and explained how the revolving account works.

Vote: Claudine made a motion to approve purchasing equipment and storage units and items listed in an email dated February 16, 2023, from Mark Anttila for up to \$1800.00. Seconded by Arielle. All in favor. Motion carried.

VI. Camp Harrington Update

Pam said she's still waiting for quotes to come in. LEI visited the Conservation Commission office to go through some files for information about the grading of the site. She spoke with LEI and they should have something coming soon. Pam said she asked to be put on the Conservation Commission agenda for 2/13 at 7pm in the Board of Health office because there's a question about the order of conditions. Any Commissioners that want to join are welcome. When they were looking through the Conservation Commission files it appeared some order of conditions may be incomplete. April reached out to Colin Novak of the Greater Worcester Land Trust and Chip, the Chair of the Conservation Commission, and is working to get that information resolved.

Pam said she reached out to Chief Flanagan and the Fire Department will probably be ready to burn in the next month or so. Now vendors are needed for now for removal of debris.

Alison provided some updates regarding signage. She reached out to Alison Tower Hill. They want to be involved but can't pay staff to work on the project because it's not a service they provide. Instead, they have a volunteer that's helping off hours and they came up with a lot of good ideas, and provided external resources with designs for signs like we need.

Pam reached out to Emily at CMRPC and she put Pam in touch with a coordinator. She sent some relevant information along. Pam also reached out to Connor Signs in West Boylston and they are interested in the project. They heard about the disc golf course and would like to work on signs for that, too. They sent a picture of a sign they did for a house walk in CT and suggested it could work at Camp Harrington. It's a brushed metal 18x24" sign with graphics, mounted on a post at an angle.

Alison said the suggestion was made to have a larger sign at the beginning and then a bunch of smaller signs in case something changes along the trail. Tower Hill also suggested doing a timeline on the biggest tree – a White Oak that's older than Boylston. Alison said maybe if we did a bigger sign at the beginning, at the water, and near the biggest tree -that would be considered a series?

Pam said she's waiting on a formal quote from Connor Signs and also has the names of sign vendors from Tower Hill – (one with premade signs) but hasn't reached out for a quote because we haven't yet defined what we are doing. Pam said April suggested Mass Corr for signs, so she will reach out.

Pam said there's very little history that can be found about Camp Harrington, but Jeff Turgeon (Disc Golf), has a connection to the YMCA and has looked through their archives a few times gathering information for us.

Pam suggested coming up with a name for the park soon. Alison suggested 'Harrington Park' since people will always call it Harrington. Claudine agreed with Harrington Park.

***Vote:** Alison made a motion to name the property at Camp Harrington 'Harrington Park'. Seconded by Claudine. All in favor. Motion carried.*

VII. Coordinator Report

Pam said the ice rink got used over the weekend. Matt Davidian originally put fencing up to protect it. He opened it for a few hours over the weekend, then closed it again when it was getting soft.

The bench for Center Court Park was delivered but rejected. It should take a couple weeks to repaint/reship. The paint job was not good.

Pam compiled and sent porta potty usage ensure availability for the year. And wrote the annual report for approval.

Programming:

- Trivia and Yoga were cancelled due to lack of/low enrollment.
- Babysitter Preparedness with CPR - All 12 students enrolled passed certification. With parental permission, Pam will keep a list of babysitters for referrals. There's six people on the waiting list, so there will be another class offered soon.

Alison asked if there could be an adult CPR class. Pam said she can set something up.

- Cake decorating scheduled for 2/23.
- Yoga will be rescheduled when it's lighter and warmer out
- West Boylston Cinema was contacted again. Still waiting to hear back.
- Arteca Karate will be doing classes again in April.

The Boylston Cultural Council approved four grants: Native Americans and Birds of Prey, Dinosaur Animal Adventures, The Science of Superheroes, and Stargazing.

Pam asked about dates for the spring clean-up day and expectations about the Memorial Day program. Alison suggested doing it the same weekend as the Keep Boylston Beautiful clean-up day and we can just put a punch list up and let people pick what they want to do.

Claudine said for Memorial Day information, reach out to Betty Larkin. Parks and Recreation has sold refreshments in the past. Alison said the challenge has been to find volunteers to work the booths. Last year the Parks and Recreation Commission didn't participate. In the past, two bounce houses were rented (for the price of one) and tickets were sold to enter them, as well as several refreshments. Eric said it was a lot of work for little money. Claudine said the equipment started to go. Alison suggested reaching out to Mike's and getting a quote for two bounce houses (maybe for the price of one) with someone to man the bounce houses. Claudine suggested reaching out to the Leo's for volunteers. The Parks and Recreation department in the past did popcorn, slushies, and cotton candy. Eric suggested not doing refreshments. Arielle asked what food equipment was in the best working order and was told the popcorn machine probably.

VIII. Budget Report

No discussion

IX. Citizens' Comments

None

(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.)

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

Late fall, letter about food/drink in gym to winter sports.

XI. Adjournment

Vote: Claudine made a motion to adjourn at 7:34pm. Alison seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting Materials:

Agenda	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office
Minutes	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office
Public Attendance Sheet	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office
Board of Health/Sunscreen Handouts	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office
Pickleball Requests	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office
Budget Sheet	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office

Respectfully submitted by: Pamela Frechette, Parks and Recreation Coordinator