



Boylston Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, May 02 2023

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

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

I. Call to Order by Eric Hoffses at 6:36pm

- a. Commissioners Present: Eric Hoffses, Claudine Underwood, and Alison Leblanc
- b. Commissioners Absent: Steve Nason and Arielle Strzelewicz
- c. Coordinator: Present (Pam Frechette)
- d. Public Present: Mark Anttila, Elaine Jones, Sue Sleczkowski

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 04/18/2023

Vote: *Claudine made a motion to approve meeting minutes from 04/18/2023 with the spelling of Sue's last name corrected. Alison seconded. Eric, Claudine, and Alison all voted in favor. Motion carried.*

III. CPC Update

Elaine Jones asked Commission members what their most urgent priorities for CPC spending would be. Alison identified ADA accessibility for all the parks and Tennis/Pickleball courts. Claudine said general improvements at Manor Park and Harrington Park. Elaine asked Pam and she agreed that Manor Park needs work.

Eric mentioned that Mark was working to get quotes to repair and recoat the tennis courts to accommodate Pickleball, too. Mark said he talked to Steve Mero and he relayed that asphalt is expensive. Mark said he would just like to get an idea of how much it would cost before going out bid. Mark said he could potentially get one court placed there now. Alison said her husband noted dips in the surface and with the cracks as it is currently, she would worry about a foot getting caught and an ankle injury.

Elaine said an additional goal on the Master Plan was to explore the possibility of linking existing natural resources, open space, and recreation facilities with a contiguous network of greenways and footrail corridors. Elaine asked the Commission their thoughts. Alison said a map overlay would be needed to get an idea where the existing ones are because some is DCR property. Elaine said she sent Pam a map that shows the DCR trails that are numbered. She thinks it would be nice to post on the Town website since people like trails. Alison said Dawn was looking for information to hand out for people coming into the Clerk's office. Pam said she could print some and put them outside in the pockets.

Elaine asked Eric what his priorities would be. He said he agreed with everything that's been mentioned, and a longer term one would be to address the major work at Manor Park.

Claudine suggested lights at the playground. Mark said there are lights at the tennis and basketball courts. Alison said they aren't angled properly. She said they usually are on until 8:30 or 9:00pm and the

neighbors are okay with that. The plan was to eventually switch them out for the kind that shine down. Claudine was referring to Manor, Alison was referring to Center Court. Mark said the ones at Manor still light up. Claudine said she couldn't see them from her house. Mark asked if fees are collected from Manor Park. Eric said yes. Claudine said if there's tournaments there, they are split with youth baseball.

Elaine asked if the Commission has anything to do with the school fields. Eric said they have nothing to do with Tahanto but have a softball field at Boylston Elementary. Elaine asked because someone said Tahanto could use lighting. Elaine thanked the Commission.

IV. Disc Golf Update

Eric said he and Arielle participated in the clean-up day for the Disc Golf course on Saturday. WSF is still raising money by seeking hole sponsors and they started a Founder's Club. They created a Facebook page just for the Disc Golf updates and are showing all the different holes. Eric said there are some video tours of the holes. Eric said they have their own Paypal and Venmo accounts they are using to collect funds.

Pam said the Disc Golf group was seeking opinions on a naming contest – something to do with Boylston – and putting it out to the public. Eric said he's fine with that. Mark said that Jeff looked at the mats in the closet and they can use them. Eric said Steve Mero helped clear out brush and they're way ahead of schedule. Pam said the group told her they're working well with Connor Signs.

V. Harrington Park Update

Eric said the Town voted the previous night at Town Meeting to appropriate the funds to finish Phase II of the Camp Harrington Project. Pam said the work is scheduled to start May 8th and the debris is currently being removed. Pam said she touched base with Connor Graphics and sent over the beautiful signs that Alison came up with. Pam's currently working on the boundary map for the entry sign and the timeline sign has a lot of information that needs to be whittled down. She showed the Commission the mockup of Alison's design and then showed the PARC logo provided by the state that will go on the entrance sign with the park rules. Eric didn't want too many rules posted.

There were questions about (motor) boating and trailers being driven down to the water. Pam said boating wasn't specifically addressed, but no vehicles beyond the parking area was added, and the road will become part of the trail. Claudine asked about motorbikes, and ATVs were asked about; Eric said he thought 'no unauthorized vehicles' covered that. Alison said if we could find a cohesive set of icons that could be helpful. Pam was checking with DCR and will ask Connor Signs. It was asked about swimming, which also wasn't specifically spelled out, but use of the property at own risk will be on the sign.

Pam read the rules: Use of property at your own risk, no unauthorized motor vehicles beyond parking area, respect neighbors by respecting boundaries, leave no trace - carry in, carry out - including pet waste, no unauthorized harvesting or planting vegetation, no camping or open fires or alcohol, no transport of any invasive aquatic species on equipment that may come in contact with the water, for safety lock unattended vehicles - not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Mark asked what constitutes open fires – can you bring a fire pit? Claudine asked if other park signs were looked at. Pam said yes. Claudine said she thinks we're probably covered. Talk about whether to allow grilling came up, as well as alcohol. It was mentioned that maybe a permit for an event could include grilling – leave open. Alison

said she's not sure what the laws are regarding alcohol in public spaces without a permit. Eric mentioned again that he didn't want it to have too much on the sign – check with Connor.

Mark mentioned putting a kayak rack at the pond and having people rent to store theirs there. Elaine said another town does something similar and has a lottery to get a spot. It's a way to generate revenue.

Mark looked up on his phone and said open fire is when you burn something, not propane or gas grill. Alison said maybe we leave that open for people. Eric said that would be a way to collect fees.

Alison said that Elaine had a information on a fundraiser that shows a boardwalk going through wetlands and people that contribute can have a board on the boardwalk with their name. The work would be done before installation.

Pam wanted to be clear about open fires and the way it's written, Alison said she thinks it works the way it is. Pam asked if we wanted to put on there something about renting it for organized activities like at Manor. Alison said yes.

VI. Sunscreen Program Update

Pam said she received an email from Sarah and the Lion's Club sponsored \$250.00 and she's waiting to hear back from the grange.

VII. Coordinator Report

106 Pickleball Cards sold to date

Assessor's Office contacted Planning Board and confirmed Camp Harrington is the only public access to Harrington Park

Pam will be out of the office May 16, 17, & 18th.

May 17th is an important date for the Harrington Park project as far getting the bills paid. Invoices should be received and submitted to get paid by the end of May. She'll talk with Walker to make sure it's going to happen. Eric said he can help if needed.

Floor/Mat Discussion:

Pam brought two quotes for getting the gym floors done. One is \$3,613.00 to pull the tape, buff and clean, put down lines and polyurethane. The other is \$6,840.00 without lines.

Claudine asked if the work would be sufficient. Mark said he just wants to confirm with Bob about the wax. Mark said that no tape can be put back on the floors. Alison asked if it addresses the dead spots. Mark said it does not. The Central Mass quote does not include painting. Pam said Ninotchka told her that if a contract were signed by June 30th, P&R could keep the money to pay for it.

Eric asked Mark what the benefit of the \$20,000.00 quote is. Mark said it would totally be sanded down and all lines painted back, but it's not going to get rid of the dead spots.

Mark said he got a quote on the mats for additional padding in the gym. It would be \$9,800.00 or \$12,500.00. It would not include mats over the benches. It would be the exact color that's there now. They can do Velcro mats that can be pulled down or wood backed mats that screw to the wall. The Velcro mats could also be used as floor mats. Eric said he liked the idea of permanent mats, especially since the gym

gets rented and kids might climb them. Mark asked for another quote from a different company and never heard back. He said the hard part about the wood mounted mats are that they have to have cut outs. Mark sent pictures to the vendors, but they need to get very specific measurements. Mark said the banners that are in the gym would have to be hung differently.

Eric asked if there was a third quote for the floors. Pam said the problem is trying to find someone that does this type of work. Mark said the Stoughton Company was the one Bob had recommended. Alison said if it's just \$3800.00, two is sufficient. Eric agreed that it's under the threshold. Alison said she'd love to vote on it tonight. Eric said he agreed that it's difficult to find someone that does this work, he had to call an RI company to replace the backboards. Eric said due diligence has been done.

Vote: *Claudine made a motion to approve the quote for dress coating the floor with two coats of Bona Kemi water-based urethane and painting three pickleball courts for \$4500.00 with Gymnasium floors, Inc. Eric seconded. Alison, Eric and Claudine all voted in favor. Motion carried.*

More updates:

The Yoga group is continuing their Sunday rental. Pam clarified to reserve a quarter at a time.

Pictures of people enjoying Harrington Park will be needed for state grant compliance.

Pam is going to the PARC grant workshop with Mark Anttila.

There's been an inquiry about a dog park.

There was a complaint about dumping at Manor Park. Pam asked if 'no dumping' signs could be purchased. Alison said that happens frequently. There's a leaf litter area, but no place in the area for brush. She said some people burn or hire a company or dump it. She thinks it will continue to happen, sigh or no sign. It blocks the drainage gullies and the HWD has to clear things out. We'll start with a sign, the cheapest option, and go from there.

The irrigation company came and set up the irrigation system but didn't turn it on – he said hold off until Memorial Day and then turn them on. The fields are soupy, and it would do damage. Eric asked there's a rain sensor, Pam said the irrigation company didn't think there was. Mark said he has a Bluetooth controlled one at home and it cost \$300-\$400 for a home irrigation.

Tetherball is ordered. There's a long lead-time- we are saving on shipping by tacking on to another town's order.

Pam said she figured out the last porta-potty issue - the one outstanding invoice is one that United didn't fix. Pam said the others were paid without taking into the credit memo, so there was a \$349.18 differential between what football sent and what was paid out. Football sent \$2610.00. The new rep said the last invoice will be written off. Pam asked if the Commission wants to ask football to pay the differential or absorb it. Claudine said she thinks we should eat it and start over with football. Pam noted that they sent some of their paperwork in for the fall already.

Claudine said she thinks Facebook messenger shouldn't be used for communication. People are using it more and more and it creates an issue with home time/work time. Pam said it probably shouldn't be used

due to town record keeping. Pam said that she can find out how to change it and add a message that the inbox is not checked, and to contact Parks and Recreation via email.

Alison wanted to discuss the trees at Manor Park. The arborvitae in the parking area are overgrown. The whole bottom is all diseased. There's 12 of them. And all under them are beer cans. Alison wants to get them skirted six feet up. She said the signage can't be seen and would create a sight line for the Police. Eric and Claudine agreed. Alison suggested Dennis at Tree Tech. Eric said he doesn't think he'd be interested due to past conversations. Pam said she thinks the sign at Manor Park will eventually need to be replaced. Eric said he'll contact David Kane for recommendations on skirting the trees. Mark asked if money from Pickleball could be used at Manor Park for Pickleball courts. The Commission said yes. Mark is planning clinics. Alison asked about tournaments and Mark said they are looking into things. Mark is taking a coach course and asked the status of his CORI. Pam will follow up on that.

Eric said the Disc Golf group might get signs that warn people of flying discs. The Commission agreed that it's a good idea. Mark said some courses put a bell out.

VIII. Budget Report

No comments

IX. 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.)

None

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

No discussion

XI. Adjournment

Vote: *Alison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38pm. Claudine seconded. Claudine, Eric, and Alison voted in favor. Motion carried – meeting adjourned.*

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 Email	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office
Budget Sheet	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office
Floor refinishing quotes	On File in the Parks and Recreation Office

Respectfully submitted by: Pamela Frechette, Parks and Recreation Coordinator