



Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, August 18, 2020

Location: Zoom

Time: 6.00pm

Members Present: Eric Hoffses, Ali LeBlanc, Claudine Underwood, Arielle Strzelewicz (Board Members), and Ethan Turnquist (Eagle Scout).

The meeting commenced at 6.00PM

- Eagle Scout Ethan Turnquist asks the board what the process is to approve his trail work project for his Eagle Scout project. This will include foot bridges, bench, trail markers and sign to the Hillside (green and yellow) Trails. Ali asks if this trail connects to the trail Jack Stiles and Antonio Ramos worked on. Ethan says it will connect. Ethan needs a beneficiary signature for his project to move forward. The board expresses they think the project is a great idea. Ethan asks if the board needs to approve the project. Ali states that it needs to be approved by the Board of Selectmen. The board thanks Ethan for presenting his idea.

-Porta-potties

Ali has received complaints of lack of porta-potties at the parks due to Covid, and public urination. She told the resident that reached out to contact the local police department if it continues to happen. Arielle shares her past experience with companies and their sanitizing processes. Ali states we do not have the staff or budget to keep up with the CDC cleaning recommendations. Claudine asks if the porta-potties need to be sanitized after each use. Crystal will order the porta-potties and they will be cleaned weekly by United Site Services, she will reach out to the local sports teams and see if they are needed for their seasons. They have hand sanitizer for hand cleaning. They will be available for residents to use at their own discretion. Ali motions to move forward with having the porta-potties delivered to Center Courts, contingent on the porta-potty cleaning schedule and signage. 2nd by Arielle, all in favor.

-Greater Worcester Land Trust update, Eric

Eric states he has received additional details about the land from Colin Novick. It is about 4 acres of land by Sewell Pond, GWLT will hold the deed, there will be a section for public recreation administered by Boylston Parks and Recreation. There is a flat strip of land that could be useful for Parks and Recreation use, as well as forest and wetland areas. Eric would like to set up a meeting for the board to walk the area with Colin, The project is expected to take 2-3 years. GWLT would like to get the ball rolling for planning as they would like to start planning trees. Claudine asks if meeting to walk the area would be an open meeting violation, Ali states it would not as long as no decisions were being made or voted on, Ali asks if GWLT puts aside land for a field area would there be a parking lot and who would maintain it. We would need to think about how to connect with the other departments in town for various types of maintenance, taking our budget into account. Claudine asks if the field will be for lacrosse. Eric states that it was an interest of town residents and that Crystal had provided the Open Space Committee survey results. The results showed there was an interest for a lacrosse field, dog park, frisbee golf, as well as a few other uses for the area. Ali states the board can email each other to schedule when they will be, but feels it is best to have Crystal email to schedule the walk-through for the board. Eric will speak to GWLT to confirm a walk-through.

Eric mentions that with Covid and the summer that starting in September the board will get back to holding the Parks and Recreation meetings on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Claudine mentions that the Master Planning Committee needs a volunteer from Parks and Recreation to join the committee. Airelle volunteers to join. Ali mentions that a woman named Danielle showed interest in joining more Parks and Recreation meetings, Eric states she reached out and she feels she can not commit to a monthly meeting at this time, but is open to volunteering when needed. Claudine asks who took care of the Manor Parks trash, Ali would like it to be added to next month's agenda since the current volunteer is moving out of town. Eric explains Youth Baseball does remove their own trash. Ali says the trash in question is the trash barrels over by the basketball court and skateboarding area, and that the police do patrol the area. Eric asks who empties the trash at Center Courts. Ali states it is the DPW and we can ask them to also empty the trash at Manor Park. It was not an issue in the past as we had volunteers. Eric would like the current trash cans to have the chain cut.

Claudine motions to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm, Ali 2nds, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Crystal Byron

Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator