

1-14-16

Parks and Recreation Committee

5:30 PM Becket Town Hall

Present: Rita Furlong, Tina Lavasseur, Edward Gibson, Maddy Elovirta

Rita called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. The minutes of the last meeting, 5-20-2015 were accepted as presented.

Budget for 2016/2017

Much discussion on what to include in the budget for the coming year. There are some fixed expenses that must be met and then members rounded out the budget with areas that need attention. One area of need to be actively worked on for the coming year is the North Becket Park. Rita will meet with contractors for prices to redo the 7/10 of a mile walkway and the removal of the old exercise stations. Maddy will research new fitness stations that would work for both children and adults. These will replace the old timbered pieces.

Maddy presented a request for the committee's support for the replacement of the 1999 playscape that is at the Becket Center Park. The voted passed unanimously. Maddy will do the grant paperwork for the Community Preservation Act application.

Beach security and beach stickers was discussed at some length. Administrator Gibson will be looking into what opportunities are available for beach stickers. The committee voted to have beach security at the beach road entrance this summer. All vehicles at the beach must have a sticker.

The tether ball at the Becket Center Park is located in the rear of the playscape and allows for vandalism. The rope for the ball has been replaced many times. The last replacement was with a metal cable and that also was vandalized. The committee voted to move the tether ball out into the open field area by the park shed.

Rita brought up the suggestion that the blacktopped area in the park be either completely eliminated or cut down to half. Prices will be solicited from the Highway Supt. and also local contractors. By doing this, more room will be offered for children to have a swing and play area.

Tree removal was discussed. There is a dead pine tree at the beginning of the beach road. Also a large hemlock is leaning over into the roadway to the beach as well. Maddy will notify the tree warden and ask for his input. The trees at the North Becket Park need some trimming. Once the weather clears, members will do a walkthrough to make a decision.

Rita address the idea of a bridge from the Bidwell Park to the North Becket Park. She asked for no action but to keep it in mind. Much research will be needed in regards to working so close to the river.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maddy Elovirta