

## Lee Recreation Commission

December 5, 2011

**Members:** Geoff Carlton, John Shea, Dawn Genes. Phil Sanborn joined in by phone.

**Guests:** Stacey Bender, Dennis Gelsomini

### MINUTES

Minutes from the November meeting were read and accepted.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Revolving account - \$15,687.10

Warrant Article 12 Basketball Court - \$4,043.40 remaining from \$26,200

Warrant Article 13 Phase 2 Playground - \$4,704.20 remaining from \$16,000

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Little River Park

- Pavilion - An engineer is reviewing the plans for the pavilion from a structural context. After this, a true cost estimate can be prepared.
- Ice Skating Rink - Dennis Gelsomini built the ice skating rink and all we need now is cold weather. Total cost came to \$79.17. Geoff made a motion to reimburse Dennis for his costs. John seconded it. Motion passed.
- Irrigation Lines - The irrigation lines on the baseball field will be blown out with an air compressor this Saturday.
- The Men's Wooden Bat League has requested use of the Babe Ruth field again in 2012.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Little River Park

##### Field Development – Grass or Artificial Turf?

Geoff applied for a grant from US Soccer to build an artificial turf field. This requires that a ballot article be before the town. The last day for ballot submissions is January 10. The numbers for building an artificial turf field will be about \$737,000 with about \$223,000 invested so far in subgrade dirt work and the purchase of rock base. A private donor has indicated a donation of up to \$50,000. The soccer grant is for up to \$200,000. If the grant and donation come through the remaining cost to be borne by the Town of Lee will be \$420,000. Each twelve years the field will need replaced at an additional cost of \$450,000 per installation.

The remaining cost to complete a natural grass field would require approximately \$132,000 to complete. The rock purchased for artificial turf could be sold for \$60,000 or more and the private donation of \$50,000 could be applied reducing the cost to be borne by the Town of Lee to \$22,000.

John commented that to install an artificial turf field would require a substantial amount of money and that the town residents will have a hard time agreeing to such a large sum.

Dawn expressed concern that to support an artificial turf field that the amount of hours per week that it would have to be rented out would mean that the park would become an "athletic

complex” rather than being a quiet town park. Dawn also said that a fence would be required around an artificial turf field to protect it from vandalism from off road vehicles and that this fencing along with the fences for the current and planned baseball fields would mean that there is little open grass area for general use and for town fairs, etc. Phil suggested that the fence be along the tree line and be of wood, rather than chain link. Fencing would be required to keep vehicles from being able to leave the access road or get onto the field from the other directions.

Phil recommended that the plan for rented use of the proposed artificial turf field be changed so that a rental fee would not be charged for ORYA and the hours of rented use scaled back to fewer hours per week so as to reduce the amount of traffic in and out of the park. The parking lot is not very big and if there is a baseball game, softball game and the soccer field in use that there will not be enough spaces. Dawn commented that the groups who would be renting the artificial turf field would more than likely be from out-of-town so why would we go to such an expense to build a turf field for teams that are not from Lee.

Erosion Control and Stormwater Management – the sediment was pulled out of the stormwater detention pond to allow for volume for water to settle before leaving through the outlet. Some areas where there was erosion were graded and mulched.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm. Next meeting January 2, 2012.