

Recreation minutes 7/16/2012

Prepared by Brud Wright

Commissioners in attendance

Brud Wright, Anna Meliones, Bob Virzi, Stas Gashan

Meeting called to order 7:15 PM

Public comment:

Mike Lowery briefed the commission on a request he was following up from the Police and Fire Chiefs to provide emergency access in three locations for Dudley pond. Two of the proposed locations are under Recreation control. 1) Mansion beach and 2) Near the Chateau restaurant. Bob Virzi will follow up with The Chiefs to confirm these locations and report back to the Recreation Commission. Mike Lowery, chair of the BoPW will put together a budget for gates and access improvements to facilitate the emergency access. Funding for these improvements will come from other sources not Recreation. The Recreation members present indicated they felt this was a good idea for both the town and Recreation. No motion was made and no vote was taken.

Bill Hearne had two questions.

1) The CPC had Recreation on their agenda prior to this meeting. No one from Recreation showed up what is the out come of the Loker issue that was passed over?

2) Bill inquired about a walk of the Greenways property by Nancy McShea, Anna Meliones, Asa Foster, Bob Virzi, and Brud Wright. Bill wanted to know about the purpose of the walk and had any decisions been made based on that walk.

1) Wright indicated he planned to attend the CPC meeting but thought the meeting had been canceled. Wright subsequently reached out to CPC chairman and asked to be put back on the agenda at their next meeting.

2) Wright indicated that no decisions had been made based on the Greenways walk but the consensus is that this location was a still a good option for consideration in regards to Receptions master field plan.

BOS Memo

The BOS had circulated their internal memo outlining procedures for interacting with the public. The question from the Town Administrator was whether or not other boards wanted to adopt this memo as part of their internal policy. The Recreation Commission members had not all received this memo. It was decided this memo would be circulated to all commissioners and discussed at a later date.

Nets and other Recreation infrastructure

Wright briefed the commission on a meeting between Nancy McShea and Dr. Stein concerning funding for school and Recreation assets and their upkeep. Wright did not attend this meeting so the information is based on a follow up conversation Wright had with Nancy. Dr. Stein indicated he was not apposed to including line items for school athletic field maintenance and other infrastructure items used by the school's athletic programs, but indicated that the schools priorities may not be the same as the Recreation Commission.

Since these facilities are shared between the school athletic programs and other intown, youth, and adult groups, it was suggested that perhaps a better way to fund the maintenance of these facilities including capitol items would be for Recreation to pick up these cost and include them in their budget request at town meeting.

Wright indicated that he thought this was a sensible approach to maintaining these facilities. Recreation is responsible for all matters involving Recreation and because School, Youth, and Adults groups share these facilities it is logical that Recreation would pick up these cost. It was Wrights understanding that Dr. Stein would support Recreation's request at Town meeting for these cost.

In a subsequent meeting with the School's Athletic Director, (Justice Smith) Justice agreed with this approach and offered to speak at town meeting in support of the recreation budget.

Justice did make a request for portable goals at the lower athletic field so that the new goals could be rolled away during Lacrosse season. This would resolve a serious safety issue with lacrosse players possibly running into the existing fixed goals during practice or games. The existing goals are now old in disrepair. These goals would be covered by the Recreation capitol maintenance budget should the Commission approve the expenditure and the DPW would be instructed to set up the goals.

The Commission discussed the issue of assuming the cost of all fixed infrastructure for all recreation facilities as outlined above. Before taking a vote on this issue Bob and Anna would like to see the annual cost or line item cost for replacement items such as goals, nets, tennis nets, volley ball nets, etc. Wright indicated he would request those cost from Nancy and have her send that information out before our next meeting. Wright indicated since we have discussed this issue in the last three meetings he hoped we could take an up or down vote to assume responsibility for these cost and request appropriation from the town at the next TM.

Location or Water bubblers

Don indicated the DPW had purchased two bubblers and wanted to install them with the Receptions Commission's approval. The DPW director proposed one bubbler to be installed at TB and Art King baseball field, and the second at Alpine field. The Commission agreed to allow Nancy to confirm the best locations with Don the DPW director.

Beach House issues and updates

- 1) Low voltage discovered at plumbing fixtures.
- 2) Deck in front of snack bar is too hot to walk on in bare feet. During the day as this deck is exposed to full direct sunlight.
- 3) Bathroom urinals were not installed for kids as well as adults. (This information turned out to be erroneous and there is not issue with the urinals).
- 4) Guard shack need to have build out complete.

The new Dock is going out to bid in the fall. The basketball courts and volleyball installation will be completed this summer.

The fryer is being ordered and will be installed this summer.

New windows that will operate better for the snack bar will be ordered.

N Star will complete the grounding for the building. N star indicated the public was never in danger.

IMA (Inter Municipal Agreement)

Gashan and Wright met with the Town Administrator prior to this meeting. Stats recapped his thoughts and concerns about the meeting.

There is little agreement between Wright/Gashan's views of the Recreation

commission's authority and the Town Administrator's with regard to the Recreation Director and her staff. Stats expressed his view that the Recreation Commission has far more authority over the Recreation Director and in particular her staff than does the BoPW and their DPW director and his staff by statute.

Stas suggested that an agreement should be drafted to resolve future disputes concerning the recreation Commission's authority and the authority of the town administrator. Stats pointed out that the TA agreed that he and the BOS should have consulted with the Recreation commission before signing the IMA and would have done so if he could go back in time.

Stas also recommended that the town think about implementing a better tracking system similar to Citizens Connect for issue brought to the town for action by citizens. The TA agreed to look into the system.

Wright had a larger concern in that it appears to Wright as though this ill conceived and not well implemented IMA and the sharing of the Recreation Director between Sudbury and Wayland should be reevaluated. Wright contends that in a poorly structured DPW article brought to town meeting years ago a great deal of confusion about competing authority was the result. This has not been in the town's best interest and splitting the Director of Recreation between two towns does not appear to benefit the Town of Wayland. Wright would like to consider bringing the Recreation Director back full time to Wayland. In the alternative Wright feels that the TA should demonstrate how existing staff can better address the needs of the town. As of now Wright feels this experiment has not worked as intended and before we address what to do about the IMA we should consider cancelling the agreement and restructuring to bring the Recreation department back to the original structure which in the past operated more efficiently and at a higher level. From the public **Bill Hearne** expressed his concern that this agreement served no useful purpose since the two towns were only sharing staff. The two towns do not share facilities, scheduling, or purchasing, so what is the point of sharing the director?

Anna mentioned that the Recreation Director should receive her annual review from the Recreation Chair.

Miscellaneous issues

There was a discussion with the TA about the best way to prepare for the possible development of a new Artificial Turf field at the current soon to be former DPW garage. Fed Turkington suggested looping in the BoPW and the DPW director for their thoughts.

The next Recreation meeting will be 8/27/2012

As a main topic for our next meeting the Recreation Commission would like to finalize our master field study plan.

Recreation will meet in the future with CPC and ask for 7 to 8% of the anticipated project cost for the ball fields at Loker, approximately \$80,000.00 for the design.

Public comment

Molly Upton asked what the 7 or 8% was for? Her question was answered, for the design of the Loker baseball fields,

New Business

Bob reported the progress on the Town Center Municipal pad design study group.

Bob Indicated there was a shift away from a playground and an emphasis towards landscaping the pad to create an inviting public space for concerts, and ice-skating in the winter with lights. No final decisions have been made and renderings will be available in the near future of the options being considered.

8:47 PM Bob motioned to adjourn Stas second. Vote was unanimous.