

March 8, 2016 Commission Meeting minutes

Present: Brud, Asa, Heidi, Anna, Frank

Guests: Chris Maietta

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm at the DPW meeting at 66 River Road

DPW Meeting until 7:55pm. Minutes with DPW

Public Comment – no one present

Minutes & Payroll & Bills:

February 16th – Nan Balmer & Cherry Karlson were present

February 26th – add Cherry Karlson's full name and list as a guest

Heidi, motion to accept Feb 16th and 26th meeting minutes with few edits. Anna 2nd. All in favor. 5-0-0.

Payroll & Bills – Frank came across a bill from EverSource at the Cochituate Baseball fields that charged Recreation approx. \$350 for the month of Nov-December. Frank looked into it with Mike Lindeman and discovered that a transformer recirculates electricity from the power source and always charges the meter. It is a “step down transformer” that converts the power to a usable power source. Mike Lindeman looked into shutting the power off with Musco lighting.

Frank also commented on the amount of money that Scott Parsegian is making for a Recreation program. Every program is different, Anna commented.

Frank, Motion to accept the bills and payroll for January and February 2016. Asa, 2nd. All in favor. 5-0-0.

Town Beach 2016

- Crew Docks – Chris Maietta present to further discuss the purchase of new docks that the Crew team would use, along with beach visitors.
- Current docks are 60' long and 10' wide, but are starting to fall apart with holes in areas of the plastic block sections.
- The other docks, tan docks are loaned by the Head of the Charles Regatta, and is a great arrangement for the Crew team.
- The black and grey docks are the ones we are considering replacing. The Head of the Charles gave these docks to the Crew team in 2015, but they are reaching the end of their life.
- During the winter months, the crew team takes the docks out of the water and stacks them on the shore.
- The same company has new designs of similar docks that Chris got two quotes on from the company “Connect-A-Dock”. The “B” option is more ideal because it comes in larger sections and is slightly less expensive.
- Asa asked what would happen with the old docks, and Chris indicated they would probably try to donate those to another High School team that may be getting started.
- The long term solution to everyone seems obvious to eventually purchase 2 sets of docks over time so that they no longer have to be transported to Boston each fall.
- The “A” system cost estimate was \$25,811 and the “B” system cost estimate was \$17,445.
- Chris is here to entertain the idea of sharing the cost for the docks since it would also benefit the town beach visitors.

- The question was asked if Recreation could use existing Capital Maintenance Funds to purchase the docks, but Jess was concerned about using the Capital funds since it was not specifically specified in the Warrant
 - o Asa, motion to use Capital Maintenance Funds to split the cost of new docks for the boat launch area because it will benefit not only crew participants, but all beach goers as well. Frank, 2nd. All in favor. 5-0-0.
- Chris is now using “Gentle Giant movers” to move the other sets of docks to Boston each fall so DPW no longer has to do it.

Capital Projects

- Dudley Woods – commission authorizing Marshall Gary subject to discussions Jess has with town Staff
- Happy Hollow Playground – commission authorizing Marshall Gary subject to discussions Jess has with town Staff
- Oxbow Meadows - commission authorizing Marshall Gary subject to discussions Jess has with town Staff
- High School Master Plan – commission would like further discussion before selecting a designer for this project. The commission would like Ben’s input for that project
- High School Basketball court – will not use a designer, just hire a consultant to re-seal and re-paint
- Middle School – Wait until after Town Meeting to revisit and at that time
- Cochituate Ball fields – revisit after a site visit
- Alpine Field – Authorizing Pressley subject to discussions Jess has with town Staff and passing of MOU
- Brud, motion to approve Dudley Woods, Happy Hollow, Oxbow Meadows, and Alpine field designer selections as Jess suggested subject to discussions with town staff. Asa, 2nd. All in favor. 5-0-0.
- Jess provided a document that outlined her suggestions of which designer to select for the various projects that are still outstanding
- Commission would like to schedule a meeting tour to Recreational properties sometime in the Spring
- Jess provided a draft MEMO to Nan that she will update with the Capital Projects update and designers selected.
 - o Commission reviewed the list that Jess provided and provided comments and suggestions for each item, approving each item listed so that Jess could Revise the Memo and send to Nan to explain the commission has approved all those projects and are waiting for the necessary steps with MOU to occur
 - o Discussion about benches and how the commission would like Jess to outline the plan and type of bench for each property and estimated cost estimate
 - o

Spring Town Meeting Warrant Articles

- Frank and Asa met with Erica Jacques from Senator Ross’s office for an update on the House Bill for our Recreation Bill. Frank then called Carmine Gentile’s office and learned the bill is currently before it’s “third reading”. It is moving along, and getting closer to the end of the process.
- Asa, motion to support and approve the community center design funding article. Heidi, 2nd. All in favor. 5-0-0.

- Stabilization Fund Spending Article – brief discussion about how the BOS agreed to not take a stance on whether to support or not support the article.
- Brud, motion to approve the address change for both DPW site articles from 193 to 207 address #. Asa, 2nd. All in favor. 5-0-0.
- BOS 53E ½ Revolving Funds Article discussion. The commission supports the article, but not the language that eliminates field user fees.
 - Heidi asked questions about what the solutions are for collecting user fees into the Revolving Fund instead of the General Fund
 - Anna explained her thoughts of how this whole topic started with spending the user fees in the same year, and how the funds should be controlled and spent. Anna feels this is too much change in one year for the General Public to understand at one town meeting.
 - Jess explained that in years past the field user fees were covering DPW expenses, and FY16 is the first year that the user fees are not being spent on those items and a new budget needs to be clear to outline what the Rec Commission wants to spend those funds on moving forward.
 - Brud explained that the Rec Commission wants to keep control of those fees so that they can make the best judgment of how that money should be spent and what the fees should be to cover those items, and that by collecting them in local receipts doesn't allow the oversight necessary in town to decide how those funds should be spent. In return, the Rec Commission wouldn't need the \$75,000 in Capital Maintenance funds each year, but the Fin. Comm. would prefer that method.
 - Anna explained more of the history between the boards and the chains of command
 - The boards are forcing decisions the wrong way, in the opinion of some of the commissioners.
 - Discussion about this whole issue started when the spending cap was reached and the Rec Commission wanted to seek special legislation rather than become an Enterprise Fund which the BOS originally supported and preferred a year ago
 - Brud spoke a conversation related to the School Revolving funds and how those funds are not touched by the BOS and Fin. Comm., yet they are over-analyzing Recreation's Revolving Fund
 - Jess suggests that the commission be very clear about how they plan to spend the field user fees if they amend this article at Town Meeting

Dudley Pond Beach Area

- Boat Graveyard? Defer to next meeting

Spring Field Use

- Because Art King is resting, Baseball and Soccer are having a big conflict on Thursday's at Claypit for the Spring season. A new proposal was suggested by Frank and Steve Curtin from Baseball to relocate the soccer field 20 feet to the right and 10 feet back

Topics not anticipated

- Heidi went to Alpine and is finding trash, condoms, marijuana pipes, etc. at the field and playground area. Heidi asked about signage and reporting it, and who controls.

Motion to Adjourn, Anna. Brud, 2nd. All in Favor. Next meeting Friday, March 18th at 10:00 am.