

RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2020
7:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Present: Chris Hardy, Commissioner; Hema Santhanakrishnan, Commissioner; Steve Trimble, Commissioner; David Martin, Board of Selectman Liaison; Melissa Rier, Recreation Director; Mary Lou Repucci, Recreation Office Manager
Also Present: Robert “Donnie” Sokolowski, Recreation Volunteer of the Year
Absent: Joe Will, Commissioner

Opening: Chair Steve Trimble opened the meeting at 7:04pm.

I. Regular Business

1. Review of Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2020: Hema moved, and Chris seconded, to accept the 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Roll call: Hardy, yes; Santhanakrishnan, yes; Trimble, yes. The motion was approved, 3-0.
2. Citizen Concerns: Nothing to report. There was no public comment.
3. Recreation Volunteer of the Year. The Commissioners voted at the November 10, 2020 to unanimously approve Robert “Donnie” Sokolowski as Recreation Volunteer of the Year. He was awarded a plaque in recognition for his fine service throughout 2020. Thank you, Donnie! There was no public comment.
4. Reports:
 - a) Fields and Facilities: Progress with construction of pickleball courts is at a temporary standstill due to the death of one of the key participants instrumental to bringing this popular sport to Acton. We are sorry for the family’s loss and are thinking of them with sympathy. Recreation still expects construction of the courts to happen in April. There was no public comment.
 - b) Rail Trails: Joe had asked Melissa to bring up that he talked about the concern for safety of the NARA and BFRT intersection at the annual FBRFT meeting. The Friends of the BFRT agree that it is an issue. There was discussion of a possible way to slow traffic down by means of an inexpensive fenced corral system that forces cyclists to walk their bikes through a designated area, such as is used in Falmouth and other towns. There was no public comment.

- c) Events: Nothing to report. There was no public comment.
- d) Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”): Recreation has applied for the following CPA grants: NARA Sports Pavilion South Building interior finishing (first priority); Elm Street tennis and pickleball court resurfacing; Gardner Playground construction; and, Jones Playground extension of rubber surfacing. Melissa attached a cover letter to the request package noting monies to be returned to CPC in the amount of \$242,422, including surplus from the T.J. O’Grady Skate Park project and funds awarded for construction of a NARA Picnic Pavilion restroom postponed indefinitely. There was no public comment.

CPA Project Updates:

- *T.J. O’Grady Skate Park – Skate Park Behavior:* Violation of COVID guidelines by skaters was reported to the Town, in particular the order requiring masks in public. Consideration was given to hiring a Recreation seasonal staff employee under the CARES Act to police the Skate Park, but funding expires on December 31, and in the meantime a snow storm has diminished Park use. There was no public comment.
- *NARA Picnic Pavilion Restroom:* (See 4(d) above.) There was no public comment.
- *NARA Sports Pavilion:* (See 4(d) above.) There was no public comment.
- *Jones Playground Renovation:* (See 4(d) above.) There was no public comment.
- *Gardner Playground Renovation:* (See 4(d) above.) There was no public comment.

II. New/Special Business: Melissa obtained quotes from O’Brien & Sons for a picnic table in memory of Edward Holcomb for the North Acton Community Garden. Prices range from \$1,500 to \$2,800. The possibility of this being an Eagle Scout project was discussed. Melissa would provide a plaque. There was no public comment.

III. Consent Items:

None. There was no public comment.

Adjournment: At 7:35pm Chris moved, and Hema seconded, to adjourn the meeting.
Roll Call: Hardy, yes; Santhanakrishnan, yes; Trimble, yes. The motion was approved, 3-0.