

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

3:30 p.m.

Remote Meeting

Present: Dennis Grader, Chairperson, Barbara Kuklewicz, Vice Chairperson, Albert Cummings, Secretary, Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation, Jennifer Peterson, Clerk/Bookkeeper

Meeting is being recorded

1. 3:30pm Meeting Called to Order

2. 3:30 pm Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2020

Motion: Albert Cummings makes a motion to accept the December 10, 2020 minutes; seconded by Barbara Kuklewicz.

Approved: 3-0

3. 3:32pm Winter Programs Status – Aquatics Programs, Youth Basketball

Due to COVID restrictions we have removed the Open Swim from our aquatics program this winter. Jon has resubmitted our plan without open swim to the Emergency Management as well as the Superintendent of GMRSD. Jon went through the revised health protocols for both programs with the commission. He did address the commission saying if they had any concerns about moving forward with any of these programs to please speak up and address their concerns. There were no concerns. The department will not be deviating from this plan, parents and children will be expected to comply. If the Commission accepts these protocols and start dates we will then go to the school district and Board of Selectman for their approval. Jon would like the commission to be aware and consider that these programs (specifically basketball) may need a time limit as to the end dates just in case the school district pushed back their hybrid start date to February 22. In a typical year we are ending the basketball program at this time. There was discussion as to how late is too late to start our winter programs so as not to interfere with spring programs.

Motion: Barbara Kuklewicz makes a motion to let Jon and Jen determine if youth basketball can move forward using the health protocol set in place; seconded by Albert Cummings.

Approved: 3-0

Motion: Albert Cummings makes a motion to accept the health protocols for the Blue fish program; seconded by Barbara Kuklewicz.

Approved: 3-0

4. 4:05 pm Virtual Sawmill 10Krun Assessment

There were 22 runners involved in the virtual 10k race. Medals were given to the racers. We broke even with the help of Greenfield Savings Bank donation.

5. 4:08pm Spring Programs

We are hoping to run our usual spring programs - tee ball, softball, and an entry level baseball program. It is difficult to say right now what programs we will be able to provide. Data provided at a recent webinar Jon was involved with is indicating that on a national level summer camps will still be very limited but probably not as limited as last summer. Jon feels this plays into what we should expect for the spring. Jon recommends the EGGstravaganza be a drive through event held on April 3. Peter Cottontail and

volunteers will hand out bags of stuffed eggs. We still have the eggs from last year so Jon contacted the company and they said the candy is good for two years. The Selectboard would need to approve this as Jon is expecting traffic interference on First, Second and L Streets. The Commission agreed to move forward on the drive through event.

Motion: Barbara Kuklewicz makes a motion to move forward on the EGGstravaganza drive through event with the approval of the Selectboard; seconded by Albert Cummings.

Approved: 3-0

6. 4:13pm FY21 Current Operating Budget & Revolving Fund Balances

Jon shared the current monthly operating statement. There were no questions. We currently have a negative balance of \$10,558 in our revolving budget which Jon feels will remain through summer. If we are able to hold summer camp starting at the end of June then the money in our operating part time wages line item will help us get out of the negative. If we can't hold camp in June that balance will be carried over.

7. 4:19pm Campfires in Parks

Both Montague Center and Turners Falls Fire Department Chiefs contacted the state in regards to camp fires in parks and they said no camp fires in parks.

8. 4:22 pm Unity Park, West End Improvement w/ Nova Motorcycles

Nova Motorcycles owns the lot across the street from them (old skate park) and have begun to plan to improve this area. Jon has been interested in removing the chain link fence that overlaps into this lot and to beautifying this area as well. Jon contacted Nova and discovered that they had a plan in motion for this space and had contacted the Planning Department. Jon has met twice with these groups. The fence has already been removed. The plan is to develop the small strip of land to plant trees, benches and or picnic tables, and grass. This will be funded by a grant from the Planning Department - funding also covered the cost of removal the fence. Plans are in development and hoping by the summer.

9. 4:27pm Naming Policies & Request

Twenty years ago we put together Naming Policies for the park. Jon would like to break that policy as this community has someone that deserves recognition and whom has played an integral part of our department and school system. George Bush was the playground director of a very large and active program in the 1950's & 60's. Jon would like to propose we name our softball fields after Mr. Bush.

Motion: Albert Cummings makes a motion to name the ballfields after Mr. Bush, with his consent; seconded by Barbara Kuklewicz.

Approved: 3-0

10. 4:32pm Parks & Recreation Director's Annual Evaluation

Dennis and Jon will meet and discuss this evaluation with the approval of Barb and Albert. Jon will check to see if this meeting needs to be on record.

11. 4:33pm Parks & Recreation Director's Report

●Special Town Meeting Article – Repainting of Unity Playground Walkways & Basketball Court

The Special Town Meeting will be held remotely on February 25. We are requesting this article and hope to have it completed by summer.

●If COVID numbers continue to stabilize/decrease in Montague, town building will reopen to the public (by appointment) on February 8.

- DPW will be clearing out trees and shrubs from the embankment along Third Street.
- We are starting an Instagram account. This is another social media outlet for our department to promote our programs and events.

12. 4:40pm Adjourment

Motion: Barbara Kuklewicz makes the motion to adjourn; seconded by Albert Cummings.

Approved: 3-0

X _____

Albert Cummings, Secretary Date Or _____

Signature Name & Title: _____

Print: _____

Date: _____