

## PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, October 31, 2024

3:30 p.m.

One Avenue A

Turners Falls, MA 01376

**Present:** Barbara Kuklewicz, Chairperson, Albert Cummings, Vice Chairperson, Jeff Singleton, Secretary Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation

### Meeting is being recorded

**1. 3:30 p.m. Meeting Called to order**

**2. 3:31 p.m. Approval of September 26, 2024, Minutes**

**Motion:** Albert Cummings makes the motion to approve minutes; second by Jeff Singleton.

**Vote:** Approved 3-0

**3. 3:32 p.m. Capital Projects Update**

• **Skatepark Lighting Project:** The project is complete, and lights were turned on Friday, October 18, 2024. Currently the lights are on until 10:00 p.m. with the understanding that the Parks & Recreation Department can adjust the time as needed.

• **Old Blacksmith Shop Building:** The Town has their contract with Metcalfe Associates from Northampton, MA to complete Task 2 as stated in the RFP. This task included preparing a prioritized treatment schedule according to immediate and long-term needs, develop an outline of up to the three potential scenarios each with a scope of work order and order of magnitude cost to be implemented by the municipality at prevailing wage. The outline included either a full preservation of the structure, partial demolition of the structure or full demolition of the structure. The work will also include drawings in the plan to elevation with structural analysis for possible renovation. The timeline for this work will be from November 2024 through February 2025. The Commission did ask if there were any indications as to the cost methodology of these options and to be aware estimates costs may not always be final costs. Jon indicated that once the commission voted on an option it would then go to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

• **Montague Center Park Project Update:** All playground equipment has been installed at the park and Jon is happy with the equipment. The equipment includes two structures, one tot structure and a very large two tower structure, also a new swing set and spring animals. We are still waiting for the contractor to do some work before the pour-in-place rubberized surface and wood chips are installed.

**4. 3:49 p.m. Installing Surveillance Camera at Skatepark**

Jon reminded the commission this was an issue that had come up a few years ago that was brought to Special Town Meeting, to help manage after hours graffiti and vandalism, but was not approved by town meeting members. Since that time there has been an uptick in vandalism at the skatepark. Jon did let the Commission know that they do have the ability to vote in surveillance cameras and the costs can be paid

through our budget. The skatepark was funded through the PARC grant and because they have a stake in the park, they look to the town for upkeep and maintenance of their investment. The installation of these cameras could help combat vandalism in the skatepark and surrounding parking lots. There is currently one camera that surveys a portion of the parking lot, portable toilet and playground area. Although the surveillance cameras are running 24 hours a day, the footage is only reviewed when there is vandalism or other safety concerns or behaviors. Jon recommended that cameras are installed that cover the skatepark and parking lot. The Commission acknowledged that it is a sensitive issue and Jeff Singleton asked if Jon could confer with Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator, on the idea.

**5. 4:00 p.m. FY26 Operating & Capital/Special Article Recommendations**

Today Jon submitted a request for the rubberized pour in place material for Unity Park at an estimate of \$70,000. This material is important to the project as it makes the park ADA accessible.

There were two other non-capital articles that Jon would like to submit:

**1. Unity Park Tube Slide**, which was installed in 2000, Jon recommends replacing this has outlived its life expectancy and many repairs have been made on this 24-year-old piece of equipment. The project cost is \$13,000 for this non-capital expense.

Motion: Jeff Singleton makes the motion to endorse this article; seconded by Albert Cummings.

Vote: Approved 3-0

**2. Skatepark Sealing** at an estimated cost of \$2,000. It is recommended that sealing is done every 2-3 years, and this would be on schedule to reseal. Sealing helps preserve the smoothness of the skate park surfaces.

**Motion:** Albert Cummings makes the motion to proceed with the resurfacing of the skatepark; seconded by Jeff Singleton.

**Vote:** Approved 3-0

**6. 4:07 p.m. FY25 Current Operating Budget & Revolving Fund Balances**

The information of the current operating budget and revolving fund balances were discussed

**7. 4:10 p.m. Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting requirement**

Halloween Rag Shag Parade - Albert Cummings expressed his concerns over the recent changes to the running of the parade and proposed the department take over this task. He said he would be the liaison for this event. The Commission discussed tabling this and putting this on the December meeting's agenda.

**8. 4:17 p.m. Adjournment**

Albert Cummings makes the motion to adjourn; seconded by Jeff Singleton.

**Approved:** 3-0

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Jeff Singleton, Secretary

Date

or

Signature:

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Print Name & Title:

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Date:

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