



Town of Weare Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes August 8, 2023

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:04pm

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chair, JaNeen Lentsch; Vice Chair, David Lundeen; Pam Moul; Denise Purington; Director, Lisa Grolljahn, Salim Blume Ex-Officio.

EXCUSED:

NOT PRESENT:

Pledge of Allegiance

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Moul made a motion to accept the minutes of July 11, 2023 and Mr. Lundeen seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the motion was approved.

Agenda Topics

Topic: Tennis courts damage due to skateboarders. Ms Purington provided an update as to the recent incident with skateboarders on the courts. The Parks and Rec pickleball net has been moved to the donated upright cabinet with appropriate lock. Both lock codes can be accessed by calling the number published on the tennis court gate signage. Ms. Purington reported that the court cracks have not been filled due to weather conditions but those repairs will be completed this month if weather conditions allow.

Action Items: The gate lock code has been changed, the police have been notified and a report submitted.

Topic: Skate Park

Deposit check has been submitted to MH Fence and the materials have been ordered to fix the fencing. The Eagle Scout project was approved by the Eagle Scout Board so the building of a new half pipe feature can begin.

Ms. Lundeen reported that there is a street drain near the skate park but how it can be tied into the skate park to improve drainage is not known at this time.

Action Items: None

Topic: Field Usage Forms

A field usage form was received from the John Stark Boosters. It is for their car show set for September 16th with a rain date of September 17th.

Action Items: The Commission approved this request and Ms. Grolljahn will notified them of the approval.

Topic: Bolton Park

Ms. Purington reported that she will be meeting with Ultiplay representative regarding replacement options for the broken slide on Friday August 11th. She will provide an update at the next meeting. MH fence has received the deposit for the repair of the gate and materials have been ordered. The Commission did receive a letter from one of the town Police Officers requesting clarification of park hours which were provided to him (closed from dusk to dawn). He also made a request for installment of cameras to make protecting the park more effective. Random patrolling will not prevent future vandalism.

Action Items: The information he requested was provided to him by Ms. Lentsch and the Board of Selectmen are aware of the Commissions desire to have all parks and facilities monitored by camera.

Topic: Chase Park

-We received several updates. Many updates have been made to the park this season including the painting of the restroom floors and the gate house has been fully painted due to a generous donation of paint.

-MH Fence has received their deposit for gate repair and materials have been ordered.

-Despite raining weather attendance is holding steady and revenue from park and boat launch passes are on track to exceed last year's volumes. Volumes have not exceeded park volume limits so no patrons have been turned away due to full park.

-Ms. Grolljahm reported that a bacteria test was performed, and the results were negative. Prior to Covid the state conducted these tests randomly, but they have not resumed. The Board agreed these tests would be conducted as needed based on weather conditions and the condition of other state waters.

-A discussion took place regarding the staffing levels at the park and based on the volume what might be an appropriate level of staff.

-Ms. Grolljahn gave an update on the plumbing issues at the park. Someone stuffed paper hand towels into the toilet resulting in a backed up septic system. The cost of repair was \$1,300 and paper towels are not longer being offered in the restroom. A discussion as to whether to install air dryers took place but the Commission members felt that since this was a swimming facility patrons could use their own towels.

-We continue to be concerned about the rising cost of phone services from Granite State Telephone. This spring when the internet services were installed the coper lines were cut by Granite State resulting in a new phone service being installed by them which has caused the cost to increase. Discussion took

place regarding options including reaching out to Granite State for possible solutions or replacing internet service next season with Comcast (since it is included in town contract) and looking at internet phone options.

Action Items: 2024 staffing levels at Chase Park will be discussed during budget planning this year. Ms. Grolljahn to contact Granite State Telephone regarding our concerns over rising costs.

Topic: Budget

Ms. Grolljahn reported that some of the port-a-potties have been placed on hold until fall sports resume as a cost saving measure. Discussion took place over current spending levels for items needed at Chase Park. Year to date budget is on track. At a future meeting discussion will take place as to how to spend the monies in our revenue account. Since there are many repairs to parks and equipment that are needed a priority list will be needed.

Action Items: None at this time.

Topic: Seniors

Ms. Purington did report that she was able to speak with a board member at Hands and Hands Senior center regarding a potential meal for seniors in the fall. Ms. Purington has not yet contacted the Happy Weareites.

Action Items: Ms. Purington to continue to gather input from Happy Weareites and to speak with other organizations about possible hosting of a meal. This includes the Weare Middle School and the American Legion.

Topic: Ineson Field

Ms. Grolljahm reported that she received an itemized estimate for the well repair from Contoocook Artian Well. The estimate was in the seven-thousand-dollar range. Discussion took place as to what the next steps should be, hold off until next spring, full repair or diagnosis and repair not to exceed a certain dollar amount. It is still possible this could be just a wiring issue verse entire pump replacement. Ms. Lentsch made a motion to spend up to spend up to two thousand dollars for Contoocook Artian Well to come out to Ineson field, pull the pump, provide a diagnosis of the actual issue and provide a permanent repair to fix the problem not to exceed two thousand dollars. If the cost exceeds this amount the repair is to be stopped or placed on hold and it will be revisited in the spring. Ms. Purington seconded it. They members were in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Action Items: Ms. Grolljahn to contact Contoocook Artian Well.

Topic: Pumpkin Hunt

The PTO will hold their annual Trunk a Treat on October 28th. The Commission set the date for our pumpkin hunt for Sunday October 22nd.

Action Items:

Topic: Gazebo Bench Repairs

The Eagle Scout project to provide benches for Chase Park and additional parks is due to be completed in October. Any additional benches could be used to replaced aging benches at the Gazebo.

Action Items: None at this time

Topic: Adding Addition field and Site Plan for East Road Site

The John Stark Football program reached out and met with the Board of Selectmen about adding more fields for youth sports. Mr. Blume informed the Commission that the BOS discussed the use of the East Road property that was donated for future recreation. Members of the Select Board feel that the East Road property is not an option for future field development. The Select Board discussed the Ineson property and future expansion down to 114. Commission members feel there are also issues with the Ineson property and felt a meeting between the two group was needed to be sure we are all on the same page. Mr. Blume suggested scheduling a site walkthrough of both sites with at least three members of the BOS and three members of the Commission. Before the Commission can do and CIP planning we need direction from the Select Board.

Action Items: Mr. Blume to work with Town Administrator to schedule a site walkthrough for the two sites.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM

MEETING ADJOURNED: A motion was made by Ms. Lentsch to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Ms. Mout, all were in favor. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Minutes Recorded by Denise Purington