

Minutes
Alton Parks and Recreation Commission
September 24, 2015
Liberty Tree Park, 6:00pm
A.V.A.S. Building, 7:00pm

Members Present: William Lionetta, Jonathan Downing, Phil Wittmann and Elizabeth Shelton.

Public: Nancy Downing

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by W. Lionetta.

Site Visit at Liberty Tree Park

The Commission met at Liberty Tree Park and discussed the parcel of land that was obtained through negotiations with John Streeter and funded in part by the Land, Water and Conservation Fund. The Commission reviewed the 1983 Recreation and Park map. J. Downing recommended that the boundary markers be identified and marked so the Town knows what property it has. The Commission noted the Fire and Water Departments are located at the same property; and that there are challenges with parking. The signs posted by the Fire and Water Departments limit the amount of parking for recreational use. The Commission noted the condition of the Water Department storage area and the open and obvious hazards unsecured next to their building. The Commission also noted the Fire Department training area and various safety concerns including: damaged vehicles, remnants of a fire and an open, broken sausage trailer. There is an above ground propane tank in close proximity to the Basketball courts that can be relocated under ground for safety. The Commission discussed the importance of providing safe and attractive facilities. Expanding the parking area alongside the river and providing parking for facility users to launch canoes/kayaks would be helpful. Negative drainage on the outside of the tennis courts was noticed and suggested to be repaired to keep the courts clear of standing water. Trees were identified that need to be trimmed. The Commission noted that park signage is needed. The volleyball net along the river needs to be reconnected and put back into place so it can keep balls from traveling into the river below. The Fire Department septic system needs maintenance on the ground level to prevent damage to the system. Handicapped parking and a handicapped accessible portable toilet need to be provided. In regard to the Ben King Eagle Scout Project: the timbers can be removed and stone dust added to provide an accessible path to the recreational facilities. Mill Pond was visited and acknowledged for its frequent and many uses. J. Downing suggested that a skating track and rink be maintained as a safe, winter activity. The rink could be maintained by maintenance staff with a tractor and snow blower; perhaps Fire Department personnel would be interested in providing water for flooding the rink from the hydrant. Paving the parking lot and adding landscaping by Mill Pond was recommended. J. Downing noted that on the tax maps a town owned parcel was identified as previously belonging to the electric company and suggested that the parcel be cleared out and expanded as part of the park. A loop trail around the pond was suggested, abutters would need to give their permission.

Approval of Agenda

J. Downing made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented; motion was seconded by E. Shelton and passed.

Approval of Minutes

W. Lionetta made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 20, 2015 as presented; motion was seconded by P. Wittmann and passed.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Old Business

Barbershoppers Event- J. Downing reported he met with the Lakes Region Chordsman and they discussed the expenses, division of profits and a contract for 2016. Approximately \$3,759.00 was taken in through ticket sales. Costs were approximately \$1,713.00 for a net profit of approximately \$2,045.00. It was noted a \$500.00 scholarship would be awarded to a PMHS student and profits would be divided 50/50 per the 2015 contract. Seed money would be needed for 2016. J. Downing recommended using the profits to fund improvements to a Town park, like stone dust at Jones Field. J. Downing said he is waiting on the signed contract from the LR Chordsman for the August 20, 2016 performance. J. Downing made a motion to continue the Barbershopper's Concert in 2016, motion was seconded by E. Shelton and passed. J. Downing suggested writing a follow up article in the newspaper about the PMHS scholarship once the check is received from the LR Chordsman.

Park Plan- The Commission reviewed the list of Parks (Railroad Square Park, Harmony Park and Jones Field) with recommended improvements. It was suggested for the members to review the lists at home and be prepared to discuss their recommendation for priorities at the October meeting. The Commission noted the importance of providing ADA accessible facilities and stated that a recommendation can be made to the Board of Selectmen for funding a warrant article to make ADA improvements to the Alton Bay Community Center. J. Downing suggested looking into grants that are available as possible, additional funding sources. The Commission discussed adding a portable toilet to the field side of the bridge, at Jones Field, for the safety of the facility users/players. K. Troendle will contact the Town Administrator about restrictions in regard to the placement of a portable toilet in relation to the water department facility.

5K Race- The Commission discussed the timing company and noted that they did not provide a starter pistol, the company delayed the start of the race because they were not ready and the timing results were not received. The Commission was disappointed with the work from the timing company and suggested at looking at other timing companies for the 2016 race. It was also noted that a stroller and dog were on the course, which is not permitted, and the Commission discussed having a "marshal" at the start line to look for course infractions. W. Lionetta noted that timing companies give results before they leave the race and not providing the results to the Town is not completing the contracted agreement. The Commission discussed the suggestions from race participants about having a team and family category.

Pickleball Program- The Department will be sponsoring an indoor Pickleball Program at ACS on Wednesdays and Fridays from 7pm-10pm. The fee will be \$1 per week with funds to pay for supplies (paddles, balls and nets).

The Commission discussed the painted lines on the tennis courts set up for Pickleball and the adjustable nets and noted that the court is working out well. The Commission discussed Pickleball as being popular and seeing what the trend is next year. The Department received an estimate of \$8,387.00 to transform one of the basketball courts into a Pickleball court. It was noted the basketball courts need to be repainted.

Adult Softball League- The Commission discussed meeting with the adult softball league teams to discuss the rules from the 2015 season and possible changes.

New Business

Adult Programs at ACS- J. Downing made a motion to approve the following programs be run through the Parks and Recreation Department and held at ACS: Men's Basketball 30 years and older, Adult Volleyball and Adult Pickleball, motion was seconded by E. Shelton and passed.

Revolving Fund Expenses- W. Lionetta made a motion to approve the following expenses from the Revolving Fund, motion was seconded by J. Downing and passed: \$1,364.30 for soccer shirts; \$75.00 for the purchase of balls and 4 paddles for Pickleball; \$120.95 for adult softball fence posts; soccer officials for \$25 per team/game; and soccer coaches and assistant thank you gifts (budget: head coaches \$40, assistants \$15-\$20).

Web Site Photos- E. Shelton suggested that the Parks and Recreation Department sponsor a photo contest and print a calendar. The photos would be of Alton Park facilities and/or activities. There would be a committee that would vote and choose the photos. The winning photos would be used on the town web site and in the calendar, which would be sold as a fundraiser for park projects. J. Downing made a motion to sponsor a photo calendar contest; motion was seconded by E. Shelton and passed.

Alton Youth League- Mike Snow would like to meet with the Commission to discuss improvements at Jones Field including: tree removal, fencing and field work. The Commission said they would like to set an appointment with the AYL for the October meeting.

Fall/Winter Programs- K. Troendle presented a list of programs that the Department will be offering to include: youth basketball camp for grades 1-4, youth basketball program for grades 5&6; adult Pickleball, Volleyball and men's over 30 Basketball; Light Up Night, Winter Carnival; Snowshoe hikes during the day; Full moon snowshoe hikes; weekly walking group; 6 adult fitness/yoga classes; after school yoga class; Little Pesaukees pre-school program; kids cooking class; raw/living food class; and a basic cake decorating class.

J. Downing suggested that the Department sponsor and maintain a winter ice rink for skating and hockey. Mill Pond could be used and a skating track set up for people to skate in a loop. Designated hockey times could also be provided. The Town can maintain the ice with a snow blower/tractor and water from the hydrant. K. Troendle stated that one additional staff person will be added to the Department December 1-March 1 for winter maintenance and perhaps that is a task they could be assigned to do. The Commission discussed the value of the skating rink for recreational use and exercise.

Scholarship Requests for Soccer Program- The Commission reviewed the scholarship request forms as submitted. The Commission approved the requests (1- \$100; 1- \$50) with the understanding that parents would volunteer time for PR programs equal to \$10 per hour for the value of the scholarship. A letter will be sent to the families with that information.

Maintenance of park facilities- J. Downing noted the condition of some of the recreational facilities and areas that are falling behind and that need mowing and maintenance. K. Troendle stated the Department is short staffed due to an employee out on sick leave. The Commission discussed asking other Departments/employees to help cover the work load because we need the help.

Adjournment

In lieu of meeting at a park next month, J. Downing recommended that each member perform a self evaluation at: B&M Park; Ginny Douglas Park and the John Racine Trail and report their suggestions for improvements back to the Commission.

J. Downing made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08pm; motion was seconded by E. Shelton and passed. **The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 6:00pm at AVAS.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Kellie Troendle, Certified Park and Recreation Professional
Parks and Recreation Director*