

**Minutes  
Alton Parks and Recreation Commission  
May 24, 2023  
6:00pm, Pearson Road Community Center**

Members Present: Elizabeth Shelton, Ken Roberts, and Kristin Thomas

Board of Selectmen Representative: Andrew Morse

Public Present: David Buonopane for the first public input

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle-Parks and Recreation Director

***Election of Officers***

K. Thomas made a motion to nominate K. Roberts as chairman, motion was seconded by E. Shelton and passed. K. Roberts made a motion to nominate K. Thomas as vice-chair, motion was seconded by E. Shelton and passed.

***Call To Order***

Chairman, K. Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

***Approval of Agenda***

K. Thomas made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, motion was seconded by E. Shelton and passed.

***Approval of Minutes***

K. Thomas made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 2, 2022 meeting. Motion was seconded by K. Roberts and passed. E. Shelton made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 15, 2023 meeting. Motion was seconded by K. Roberts and passed.

***Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person- agenda items only)***

David Buonopane stated he is a coach with the AYL, and a parent, and he would like to volunteer to clean out the Batting Cage at Jones Field so it can be used this season. The Director reported that the Town's insurance provider inspected the Batting Cage this month, and several items need to be completed before it is open for use by the Little League- currently the Batting Cage is not open for use. The Director will send Mr. Buonopane the list of items to be completed and will coordinate the maintenance needs with the AYL. The Town would need to inspect the Batting Cage for safety once the recommended maintenance is completed.

***Old Business***

Friends of Parks and Recreation Committee update- E. Shelton provided an update of the Friends of Parks and Recreation Committee. E. Shelton stated the group attended the Rotary Home and Garden Show in April as their debut to let the community know about their efforts to improve parks and

playgrounds. E. Shelton noted the Friends Group was seen as the Fundraising Arm of Parks and Recreation. The volunteers handed out lists of Town Recreational Facilities, and sold bottled water to raise funds for Jones Field Playground improvements. The group displayed playground and inclusive options for recreation such as stretching stations and multi-generational activities. The group is hopeful to sponsor tables throughout Old Home Week to share playground improvement information. K. Roberts stated two pallets of water is being donated by Polar Beverage Company to Parks and Recreation for fundraising efforts and the water will need to be stored inside at the Parks and Recreation garage. K. Roberts mentioned fundraising to include having a raffle or auction for Boston Sports teams tickets, and proceeds going toward recreation programs/facilities along with the sale of water.

### ***New Business***

Jones Field Playground Primex Audit- The Director provided copies of the Primex Playground Audit completed on May 1, 2023 by Bob Barry of Primex for review. The report noted that the Playground is in good shape overall but some areas need attention including: signage; additional surface material; removal of protrusions; re-coating surfaces due to wear; extending the chain link fence to the Legion Field and removal and repositioning of some amenities. The Director will work with the Public Works Department in completing the maintenance items on the list. Due to the expense of the chain link fence, the Director recommended adding the fence extension into the 2024 Operating Budget for Jones Field. E. Shelton noted that the audit items should be covered by the Operating Budget for the Town Park and that newly appropriated Warrant Article monies be used toward major improvement projects for the Jones Field Park facility. K. Roberts suggested that the AYL submit a Warrant Article request for 2024 for field and turf improvements if they are needed.

Ginny Douglas Park Fir Tree- Nancy Downing proposed replacing the removed tree with a donated White Fir Tree. The Board of Selectmen approved her proposal with the provision that the Town would dig the hole and maintain the tree. Jill Houser is currently working with N. Downing to find a tree and they hope to have the tree in the ground by mid-June.

AYL Update- The Board of Selectmen approved the installation of the two new dug outs by AYL volunteers this spring on Jones Field. Kelly Senter of the AYL reported that work is being completed this weekend on the dug outs including equipment coming in on Friday afternoon and continuing on Saturday. Concrete is being delivered by Gilford Home Center behind the back stop Friday afternoon. The AYL has coordinated the gate and water spigot being turned on for the weekend and John Dever is on board and just asked that pictures get sent in by email as the AYL progresses on the dugouts.

Recreation Programs- K. Troendle reviewed the upcoming scheduled programs being offered including: Clothing Swap; Town Wide Yard Sale; Summer Concerts every Saturday; July 3 Scavenger Hunt; Kayaking and Hiking meet ups; Alton Trails All Star; Sunset Kayak Paddle; Beach Bonfire and Singalong; Market on Main event every Wednesday June-August; Line Dancing Lessons; Spoon Carving Workshop; 5K Road Race; Alton Bay Craft Fair; Men's Basketball; Outdoor Pickleball; Outdoor Beach Volleyball; Paint Nights in July and August at the Alton Bay Bandstand; Library Programs- Yoga for Relaxation; Trivia Night; Movie Night and more. The ongoing Men's Basketball Program; Indoor Pickleball and Weight Training classes have been going well this past winter and many programs were full like the Spoon Carving Workshop; Paint Nights

and Indoor Pickleball at Alton Central and Prospect Mountain High school. E. Shelton suggested that Playground Equipment and amenities be available for people to try at the 5K Race like stretch bars (or other kinds of fitness equipment being considered for a community playground). K. Roberts suggested having a video of some of the options being considered so people can see the various types of equipment. It was noted that kids can play on the playground and adults can exercise on adjacent fitness equipment at the same playground/park location making it an inclusive experience for the family.

Commission Membership- There are three filled positions: Ken Roberts, Kristin Thomas, Megan Stanley; one alternate- Elizabeth Shelton and the Board of Selectmen representative- Andrew Morse. There are currently two vacancies for Commission members.

Recreation Revolving Fund Request- K. Troendle requested the following items be reimbursed from the Revolving Fund: Pickleball supplies: \$13.64; \$38.97; \$55.24; AFAA recertification fee for \$374.00 for a total of \$482.15. E. Shelton made a motion to approve the request as presented, motion was seconded by K. Thomas and passed.

***Public Input II (limited to 5 minutes per person on any Governmental/Town Business)***

There was no public input.

***Adjournment***

K. Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52pm; motion was seconded by E. Shelton and passed.

*Respectfully submitted,*

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