

Minutes
Alton Parks and Recreation Commission
June 22, 2022
6:00pm, Pearson Road Community Center

Members Present: Elizabeth Shelton, Kristin Thomas, John Markland, Megan Stanley, and Ken Roberts

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle-Parks and Recreation Director

Public Present: Crista Woodbury, Christy Painchaud, Kelly Sullivan, Philip and Deborah Laurion, Alex Casale, Nick Stanley and children

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairwoman, E. Shelton and the public was welcomed to the “Alton Community Forum”. The Commission thanked the residents for attending in order to share ideas and feedback on topics including: Friends of Parks and Recreation; Splash Pad; Playground Improvements; Dog Park; recreation programs; and more.

Forum Summary:

P. Laurion would like to see more programs offered in the off season where local residents can come together and enjoy entertainment without the summer crowds/traffic (Labor Day or after); Talent Show; Concerts; Christmas related concert; Dancing with the Stars; Alton’s Got Talent; Christmas Train- bus takes people around to look at Christmas decorations; indoor activities; suggested forming a nonprofit group to be able to apply for and accept grants on behalf of the Town;

C. Painchaud noted the Master Plan coincides with providing recreation facilities/opportunities for Alton residents. Would like to see a Splash Pad at B&M Park- it is underutilized; suggested to utilize the local businesses and their resources; skate park with ramps; installation of a new swing set at B&M Park for older kids; Arts Night at B&M Park building; see the Historical Society open more often; the key to success is working together; would like to see Adult programs like Pool Night or Casino Night at the Pearson Road Community Center; would like the Town to appropriate more monies for gardens/mulch and flowers that are maintained by volunteers;

A. Casale would like to see patriotic music during the Fireworks; swimming lessons for small children at the lake; trips to Disney on Ice or similar for families where ticket and bus is included; indoor programs for young adults with transportation provided; indoor sports at ACS during times when gym is not used by ACS; community center where people could be active, participate in sports and have access to meals if their resources at home are limited; weekly open gym at ACS; using social media to connect with teens- Snapchat, TikTok videos to advertise programs; Grant Writer could be hired to seek grants for facilities and programs and paid for out of grant funds at no cost to the Town;

K. Sullivan noted that through her involvement in the Alton Community Profile and Master Plan Committee she cited the top items people wanted to see when surveyed, they included: connecting trails; community center, and more communication. K. Sullivan said we need people to talk to each

other and be invested in the community. She noted disappointment with the lack of support from the Board of Selectmen in being able to explore the possibility of a community center and finding ways to fund the center without the use of tax dollars, the Town's governing body was not supportive in looking into the possibility of a community center, and the residents are saying it is needed; would like to use Pearson Road Community Center more and show there is a need to provide people with things to do;

N. Stanley would like to see a place where youth could gather and play games, watch movies, have snacks. He also suggested an online registration process/payment system where people could sign up to participate in programs instead of the current system which people won't do; would like a Frisbee golf course and Fishing Tournament; competitive tournaments;

A. Benedetto by email said she would like to see a community garden in the center of Town; disc golf; and update the existing playground;

J. Markland was appreciative of the comments and communication taking place at the Forum, and was happy to hear the feedback and the conversations. He noted lack of support from the Board of Selectmen in representing what the people who completed the Community Profile survey want in their community, and disappointment that a Selectman was not able to attend the Forum to hear the feedback from the residents; was interested in hearing more about the grant writing and would like a grant writer to meet with the Commission and discuss the services they provide and grants that are available to apply for; there is a way to do everything- we need to find a way and would present idea of grant writer to BOS;

K. Roberts suggested that residents attend the Board of Selectmen meetings and share their comments with the Selectmen and communicate with the Selectmen on what residents want their community to look like. The Selectmen will listen to the residents; would like to see improvements to the Playground;

E. Shelton suggested if there is interest in a Splash Pad to start out small with a mushroom and then the Pad can be expanded. Areas that it may work at are Liberty Tree Park and B&M Park.

The Forum concluded at 7:18pm.

Approval of Agenda

K. Thomas made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended- adding Splash Pad-Park to Old Business, motion was seconded by M. Stanley and passed.

Approval of Minutes 12/15/21 and 4/13/22

J. Markland made a motion to approve the Minutes of 12/15/21, motion was seconded by K. Roberts and passed- M. Stanley and K. Thomas abstained. J. Markland made a motion to approve the Minutes of 4/13/22, motion was seconded by K. Thomas and passed.

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

There was no public input.

Old Business

AYL Vending at Jones Field- The Commission discussed the Alton Youth League vending out of the concession stand at Jones Field in its regard to the Town “Ordinance Relative to Sales or Solicitation on Public Property, Private or Park Property”- Section 5: C. J. Markland made a motion to grant permission for the AYL to vend out of the concession stand at Jones Field for the 2022 and 2023 season, motion was seconded by K. Roberts and passed. K. Troendle reported that Nick Moulton is working on getting the batting cage net put up and making sure the batting cage structure meets safety standards. Also the Town has communicated to the AYL that they would need to build the new dugouts that was described in their 2019 plan, and that they can use the materials currently being held in storage at the Highway Department that were purchased from the remaining warrant article monies (\$20,000 Warrant in 2019- Article 32).

Splash Pad-Park- The Commission discussed a Splash Pad-Park and setting up an online registration process for residents that would like to be on the Splash Pad-Park Committee.

Friends of Parks and Recreation- The Commission discussed establishing the Friends of Parks and Recreation group being the first step in moving forward with projects so a non-profit organization can be formed in order to apply/receive grants and do fundraising. The group would need to set up By-Laws; have a Board of Directors; have a mission statement; have clear goals and objectives; have a purpose and invite residents to join. M. Stanley and E. Shelton volunteered to be in the Friends of Parks and Recreation group. More information is needed as to the rules/requirements for establishing the group including can Parks and Recreation Commission members serve on the Friends group? It was noted that there could be a sub-committee for Dug Outs and the AYL can serve on that sub-committee.

New Business

Recreation Revolving Fund Request- K. Troendle requested the following expenses be paid from the Recreation Revolving Fund: \$72.93 for Pickleball- indoor and outdoor balls; \$200 for 20 road race prizes; total is \$273.93. J. Markland made a motion to approve the request as presented, motion was seconded by K. Thomas and passed.

2022 Summer Brochure- Recreation Programs Registration Software- The Commission discussed the option of providing an online registration process for Parks and Recreation programs where users sign up and pay online. It was noted it would be more convenient and faster and easier for people to register instead of the process that we currently have. The Commission would like it to be user friendly. The Commission suggested the IT Director be contacted about options that may work for Alton.

Fundraising and Grants- It was noted that projects are needed to be in the works by either committees or the Friends group in order to apply for grants. A Town resident has offered to provide

bottled water as a fund raiser for the improvements to the Jones Field playground- the Friends group would need to be established in order to accept the donated funds.

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 8:07pm; motion was seconded by J. Markland and passed. The next meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2022 at 6:00pm at the Pearson Road Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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