

**Minutes
Alton Parks and Recreation Commission
September 23, 2021
6:00pm, Pearson Road Community Center**

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

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle-Parks and Recreation Director

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairwoman, E. Shelton. John Markland and Ken Roberts were welcomed as new members of the Commission.

Approval of Agenda

J. Markland made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, motion was seconded by K. Roberts and passed.

Approval of Minutes

E. Shelton made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 24, 2021 as presented, motion was seconded by K. Roberts and passed.

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

There was no public input.

Old Business

Jones Field- Little Fenway Sign- The Commission reviewed an example of the sign being proposed by Nick Moulton. The sign would be 7.5' in length, and 30" in height with 10" lettering to read, "Baggaley- Moulton Field" The font is Boston Red Sox lettering- white lettering on a green monster color sign. The Commission discussed options for the sign including vandal proof bolts; the sign material being made of aluminum; and the sign location being on the outside of the backstop on the Little Fenway field secured to the fence at a high height with pieces of 1 ½" aluminum strapping. K. Roberts made a motion to approve the sign request as presented, motion was seconded by J. Markland and passed.

Recap Rotary Club Presentation- K. Troendle reported that the Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation to the Rotary Club on July 1- celebrating and recognizing July as Parks and Recreation Month. E. Shelton and K. Roberts also attended the meeting. The Director gave an overview of the responsibilities and duties provided by the Parks and Recreation Department as an important part of Town Government that provides opportunities that enhance quality of life, and promote community. The Director also presented long term plans for the Department that included field improvements at Jones Field: installation of four dug outs and a new playground. The Rotary Club invited Commission members to join their organization.

New Business

Capital Improvement Plan and Warrant Article Requests- K. Troendle reported that the Parks and Recreation Department submitted recommendations to the Capital Improvement Committee and Town Administrator/BOS as follows: establishing a new Capital Reserve Fund for Jones Field Improvements (dug outs, new playground, trails, maintenance of existing structures/fields), \$10,000. The Grounds and Maintenance Department submitted a recommendation for: Alton Bay Community Center Improvements Capital Reserve Fund \$25,000; and Grounds and Maintenance Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund \$20,000.

J. Markland questioned the Alton Youth League (AYL) program for 2022, and if a youth baseball/softball program was going to take place in Alton. K. Troendle reported that she was not informed of any changes within the AYL or that a program would not be provided. The Commission discussed the need for youth sports programs, and wanted to reach out to the AYL to confirm their plans for 2022. K. Troendle will contact the AYL to inquire about the 2022 baseball/softball program. The Commission discussed various options if the AYL were to not run a program in 2022 but will address the topic once more information is known.

Summer Programs Review- K. Troendle reported that 2021 Summer Programs went well and the Department continued with the challenges of in person programming. Programs offered included: Mt. Major All Star; Concerts every Saturday night in Alton Bay in July and August; Adult Pickleball; Line Dancing; Yoga Classes; Paint Night in Alton Bay; Lego Building; Creative Corner; Mini Golf League; and park trails/facilities promotion.

Recreation Revolving Fund Request- K. Troendle requested that the following expenses be approved from the Recreation Revolving Fund: \$213.53 for Pickleball (2 converter nets, keys, fasteners, pickleballs); \$69.95 for a 40 x 20 advertising sign for Sheila Marston Yoga Classes; \$50.00 for Joan Lightfoot gift card for being a volunteer instructor for Line Dancing Lessons; \$50.00 for MiniPutt for 2 participants in the Mini Putt League; \$75.00 for Anne Morrell for Paint Night instruction (5 participants); \$1,440.40 for the Virtual 5K Race (48 runners)- (\$835.95- t-shirts; \$300.00- timing company; \$84.45- postage for mailing shirts and prizes; \$220.00 for prizes). Total for all expenses is \$1,898.58. The current account balance is \$45,520.45. K. Roberts made a motion to approve the request for \$1,898.58 as presented, motion was seconded by M. Stanley and passed. Donations received were \$500.00 from Meredith Village Savings Bank for being a co-sponsor of the 5K Race, and \$918.12 from the Lakes Region Chordsmen for the co-sponsorship of the Barbershopper's Events.

Fall/Winter Programs- K. Troendle asked Commission members to share ideas they may have for upcoming programs. Currently the Department is sponsoring a Scarecrow Event, and Halloween Grab Bags which will have games, activities, and small toys/treats for participants to pick up at the office. The Department is in the planning stages of the Light Up Night event, and is looking at different options for Santa, including the holiday hayride. COVID concerns are an issue for the Director in offering programs for the population of small children and senior citizens, and the Department is being cautious in regard to providing safe environments for programs/events. The ABA is sponsoring Harvest Happenings in October, and for Light Up Night they are hosting the Tree

Lighting, Festival of Trees, and Gingerbread House decorating. M. Stanley noted that kids are in school interacting with each other, and would like to see traditions continue and programs be offered.

Employment Opportunities- K. Troendle reported that the Parks and Recreation Department is concerned with the wages for the 2022 summer staff positions. The hourly wage for camp counselors is about \$8/hr and Lifeguards is \$11/hr.; those wages are low in the current employment market and there may be challenges filling those positions and running programs in 2022. K. Troendle will be reaching out to the surrounding Towns, and other recreation professionals to see what the trends are for 2021-2022 and creative ways to attract good employees. Also, there were three vacancies this summer for the Grounds and Maintenance/Cemetery Departments so many tasks were not able to be completed due to the staff shortage. The Commission discussed concerns with not having enough staff to complete mowing which is important for playing on fields and in making the Town look nice. M. Stanley suggested hiring outside contractors/landscaping companies to do the mowing if the Town staff are not able to do it because funds are available in the budget to pay for the work to get done. The Commission noted the importance of providing well maintained and mowed parks and recreational areas/properties. The Commission expressed interest in inviting the Board of Selectmen's Representative to attend their meetings. K. Troendle will reach out to the Selectmen's Representative.

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

There was no public input.

Adjournment

J. Markland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17pm; motion was seconded by K. Roberts and passed. The next meeting is scheduled for a date in December TBD at 6:00pm at the Pearson Road Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

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