

**TOWN OF WEYMOUTH
RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
October 22, 2013
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Steve Reilly, Art Del Rosso, Karen Johnston, Mike Doyle and Barbara Kearney

NOT PRESENT: Janelle Quinn

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Clarke

Chairman Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

INTRODUCTION

Chairman Reilly introduced Barbara Kearney to the committee.

LOCAL OPTION MEALS EXCISE EXPENDITURES

Mr. Clarke stated the Meals Tax Excise was approved at Town Council last night. Mr. Clarke extended an apology for Mayor Kay's absence. When the meals tax proposal went forward it was explained that it would be used for expenditures related to parks, playgrounds, recreation and open space.

The first payment from meals tax came in in late September; the town received \$45,000. DOR said, regarding payments for the month of October, restaurants have until November 22nd to make their payments.

This year's budgeted amount for meals tax is \$400,000. Mr. Clarke stated the town looked at the open space plan and Capital Improvement Plan. Improvement items such as Legion Field and Pingree Field came up as projects the town would like to use the meals tax funds for.

There will be staff meeting at Town hall next week to make sure these projects get started and finished by June 2014. Mr. Clarke stated he hopes to get ready to go to bid in January 2014. It all depends on the cost and bond; with a ten year bond to get all proposed expenditures completed on the list.

The FY14 Meals Tax Revenue (\$45,000) was spent on:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| A. Stella Tirrell | \$150,000 |
| 1. Stone entrance gate rebuilding Union Street | |
| 2. Basketball and tennis court resurfacing | |
| 3. Baseball field improvements - backstop, benches, bleachers, and batting cage | |
| 4. Improved parking | |

B. Weston Park	\$40,000
1. Kids Landing play equipment slide	
2. Bang board resurfacing and stair repair	
C1. Great Hill	\$50,000*
1. Vista clearing	
2. Interpretive signage	
C2. Great Esker	*
1. Move and realign northern entrance	
D. Ralph Talbot Amphitheater	\$100,000
1. Reattach plaques	
2. Repoint brick	
3. Clean and repaint ironwork	
4. Improve power source	
E. Equipment	\$60,000
1. Tractor and mower	

Ms. Johnston stated she is happy to see funds being used for entire community not just one area, she is in support of this list.

Chairman Reilly stated going forward with the list Mr. Clarke is going to meeting with the project managers and assign point people in each project.

Mr. Clarke asked can this commission sponsor the meeting to ask for help from the various agencies; sports groups, civic associations, etc.

Chairman Reilly stated he will invite all to a meeting once all persons have been assigned to these projects.

LEGION/PINGREE UPDATE

Mr. Clarke stated the firm Activitaus from Dedham, Massachusetts has been hired to do the design work on Legion Field and Pingree Field.

Legion Field:

- They gave a good proposal
- Survey work done at both fields
- Geo-technical work in beginning of November 2013

- Testing the peat and the sub-soil
- At Legion they are trying to stay close to what was in the Stantech proposal; but are going to flip plans where tennis courts and parking were going to be
- Protect wetlands; it drains to the east and into a culvert

Pingree Field

- Multi-level turf field
- Re-access entrance across from Venetian Restaurant
- Currently issue with Skate Park and what goes on there. Need to have conversation regarding eliminating skate park or re-locating it

Ms. Johnston asked is there plan for a bridge from Pingree Field to the MBTA parking lot. Mr. Clarke stated no, it is a five minute walk.

Mr. Clarke stated he hopes to do something with these plans before the end of the year. Have the documents done by late January/early February; 100% confident that Legion can be financed; not certain about Pingree.

Mr. Clarke stated the Capital Improvement Plan is due on Thursday, October 24, 2013; then Planning Board will be looking at everything.

OPEN SPACE PLAN

Mr. Clarke stated the Open Space Plan has been conditionally approved. They have met at a staff level and the plan is eligible for grants. The town has applied for grant for the Back River Trail project. This grant will reimburse the town 50% of the project costs. The designer goes out in winter; start work in the new fiscal year.

DAYLIGHTING ON PURITAN ROAD

MWRA needs to replace the culver on Puritan Road.

IDEAS FOR FOCUS FOR REMAINDER OF 2013 AND 2014

Chairman Reilly stated all members are aware of the issue with maintenance of the fields in the town. Mayor Kay is looking to this commission for help on the matter of field maintenance. The Mayor's hope is to clean up this issue. A position was opened up for this issue; but no labor was allocated with the position. It is in the Recreation Commissions best interest to help

implement this position and get labor freed up for maintenance. Therefore, the commission needs to brainstorm

Mr. Doyle stated this is a huge job to undertake.

Chairman Reilly handed out a copy of Quincy Park Department's Beautification Plan which highlights the responsibilities of both of Quincy's buildings department and grounds department. Chairman Reilly stated there is a section in the handout called *Problems and Solutions*; it makes for interesting reading. Chairman Reilly asked members to review the handout before the next meeting.

Chairman Reilly stated he will obtain a listing of the parks, fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, etc. and the persons that staff/are responsible for each.

Chairman Reilly will ask Mayor Kay to contact the director of DPW and the School Department and ask each to prepare a listing; intent being to ask who is responsible for which field.

RECREATION WEBSITE

Ms. Johnston asked Chairman Reilly if the website can be updated with photographs of the work that has been accomplished to date by the Recreation Commission over the past year. Chairman Reilly stated he will speak with Mr. Clarke regarding this issue.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Recreation Commission will be held on November 19, 2013 at 7:00PM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 7:42PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Callbeck
Recording Secretary

Received: 11-14-2013 Distributed: 11-18-13

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Steve Reilly, Chairman