

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Public Parks and Recreation Committee
Town Hall Council Chambers
September 28, 2015, Monday

Present: Jane Hackett, Chairperson
Michael Smart, Councilor
Arthur Mathews, Councilor

Not Present: Michael Molisse, Vice Chair
Thomas J. Lacey, Councilor

Also Present: Kenan Connell, DPW Director
Steve Reilly, Parks & Recreation Director
John MacLeod, Construction Supervisor
Robert Feldman, Crew Chief, DPW

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman Hackett called the meeting to order at 6:41 PM.

Legion Field Permitting, Fees and Maintenance
Overview of Recent Park Improvements
Field Maintenance Plan for Spring and Summer

Kenan Connell and Steve Reilly were invited to the table. Mr. Reilly reviewed the schedule for Legion. There have been some rentals by adult leagues and camps. It is starting to get busier. The handout he provided shows the September rental schedule. With school in session it has gotten busier. They reached out to the schools first and started building from there.

Chair Hackett noted the schools have use of the high school and Legion every weekday from 2:30 -6 PM. Weymouth youth athletics groups have use when the high school programs aren't using it. In-town user groups don't have a big need for it until after 5PM, so it is working out. Chair Hackett asked who is responsible for scheduling the rentals. Mr. Reilly responded that the athletic director and hall rental facilitator schedule them. Requests for the fields came in over the summer and they ironed out availability. Some outside groups use the high school field and there are fees associated with it.

Chair Hackett asked if the Maintenance Director has input. Councilor Mathews noted that it looks like WHS athletics is the largest user. He asked if they are charged fees to use Legion. Mr. Reilly responded that the groups pay athletics fees to play. Councilor Mathews asked if an outside group paying a fee would bump the high school programs. Mr. Reilly responded no, but they could try to accommodate them at a time when the high school isn't using it. Discussion included athletics fees in the high and middle schools, which are used to pay for staff and stipends but not to the maintenance of the

field. Chair Hackett noted the middle schools do not charge for athletics. Councilor Mathews noted that he is concerned that the fees need to be enough to cover the maintenance cost. Mr. Connell noted that they are looking at designing a fee schedule and accounting, but it has not been ironed out yet and they have not set up any accounts. Mr. Reilly discussed the permitting process. it is a mix of in and out-of-town groups. They can accommodate changes and more flexible groups can be moved as needed. They are paying a higher rate at Legion. They tried to encourage use over the summer and it has been well received so it's carried over into the fall. Councilor Mathews asked if there is a waiting list or if any groups have had to be turned away. Mr. Reilly responded that one local soccer club could not be accommodated because it needed consistency in the schedule. They have not actively solicited rentals.

The committee reviewed and discussed the overview of the revenue resulting from permitting of all fields. There was a discrepancy in the totals because the items were taken from different systems and there was a disconnect in how programs were classified.

Councilor Mathews asked about the year to date expenditures for maintenance for Legion. Mr. Connell responded that it is still under warranty period. There are several warranties (field is warrantied for 8 years). John MacLeod reviewed some of the other warranties.

Councilor Smart noted the expiration for trees and plantings appears to be too tight; it typically should be a growing season and not 90 days. Councilor Mathews asked if there is a snow removal plan and asked about past practice at the high school. Mr. Connell reviewed. Councilor Mathews asked if the town needs to purchase specialized equipment for snow removal on turf fields, because if the field is warrantied for 8 years, he would want it to last that long by taking the correct precautions as related to snow removal and maintenance.

There was a discussion of permitting. They tried to implement new permitting but it rolled out too late in the year. Chair Hackett noted that the fees for street hockey are higher than for baseball, street hockey pays for practice, but not at Riley, and isn't street hockey pretty low maintenance? Mr. Reilly responded that they hope to implement the new fees in the spring. Baseball has already registered, so they will miss that opportunity for another year.

Chair Hackett noted that the goal is to make revenue at Legion, but it must be done with some parity. Councilor Mathews noted they were supposed to be sending out a letter the previous year so that parents were not surprised when the implementation happened. Mr. Reilly responded that he thought it was held up because they were waiting for authorization from the Council. Chair Hackett responded that it would not come from the Council; it has to be an administration action. Councilor Smart reported that there had been a discussion and recommendation to the administration to put it forward to at least cover the costs. Chair Hackett noted that fees need to be more consistent between groups/fields and it should include a percentage to cover the maintenance.

Chair Hackett asked who is cleaning the bathrooms? Mr. Connell noted that the committee meets and discusses; there should be funding for a laborer and custodian when the field house is rented. It was designed to be self-sustaining. There also should be regular routine outside maintenance and rubbish removal. Chair Hackett noted the only complaint that she has heard has been the bathrooms. Mr. Reilly noted that they currently utilize the custodian from the teen center who cleans the bathroom in the evening. For the most part, it has been open with minimal clean up needed.

Bob Feldman and John McLeod reviewed some of the improvements that were done by the DPW crews. There are 6 crew members from the DPW dedicated to parks who completed improvements to Brad Hawes, O'Sullivan, House Rock, Birches, Beal Park, Nash Negus, Stella Tirrell, Libbey, Great Esker and the new Southfield mini-Fenway. This work was done while they continued to improve town greens. It was a lot of work and a lot of extra time. Chair Hackett noted the cooperation between DPW and schools. Mr. Connell noted that most projects are finished and they hope the public will continue to police the fields to keep them nice. It was noted that they plan to go forward with a formal maintenance schedule.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:26 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Smart to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Chair Jane Hackett

Voted unanimously on 19 October 2015