

Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2019

In attendance:

Commissioners: Will Rigdon, Liza Carreiro, Charlie Iacono, Brendan Carty, Mark Edwards
Recreation Director: Ann Proto

Meeting called to order in Room G-7 at 6:35pm.

Secretary Meeting Minutes:

- Will R. moved to accept the June meeting minutes; Mark E. seconded the motion; all agreed and it was carried forward.

Vouchers: Presented and signed by Liza Carreiro.

Citizen's Speak: No attendees

Programming Updates:

- Summer programming went extremely well; Ann will have final numbers at next meeting.
- Registration for fall programs are doing well; couple of program are being cancelled
- A new program called 'Think Outside' run by 2 KP High School students involved in the DECA program is being offered to children in Gr. K-2 at the HOD School, both instructors are summer counselors.

EEE Response Update:

- Norfolk is at a moderate level; few surrounding towns are at critical level
- Fields at Pond St., Freeman/Kennedy, H. Olive Day and KP Middle School were sprayed by Norfolk County Mosquito Control, plus Rockwood Road Playground was sprayed with a garlic spray.
- All field and playground closures till no longer EEE threat is 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes before dusk.
- Will stated that the spraying schedule is determined by Norfolk County Mosquito Control. Additionally, he stated that the State sprayed aurally as well.
- Barrels taken from Rockwood Road Playground because of higher than normal aggressive yellow jackets. Notice put on our Facebook page.

Field Allocation Update:

Field Allocation Meeting

- Will, Brendan & Ann attended the Field Allocation meeting in August; went smoothly
- Some sports organizations insurance binders were late this year even after multiple requests. A couple of organizations' binders were dated after the start of season.
- Starting next season multiple season organizations will now be required to provide an insurance binder for the spring and will extend through the end of the year; additionally a 1-day insurance binder will be required if an organization has special events and uses inflatables.

Softball Tournament

- This was a college scouting tournament that took place the last weekend in July by RI Thunder and held at multiple locations. RI Thunder, PAL, Norfolk Girls Softball and Norfolk Recreation met in advance of tournament. The result was an understanding of responsibility and an agreement of fees. RI Thunder paid Norfolk Recreation \$300 per field per game plus portable toilets (they reimbursed NR for extra units and extra cleanings), and they provided a dumpster at the school for all trash. Fields were attended to in between games by Norfolk Girls Soccer personnel. Received compliments.
- In total (all locations) this tournament had 200 games with 66 teams from Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon. RI Thunder paid \$3,400 including Portable Toilet reimbursement. This amount is more than we receive from Norfolk Girls Softball for an entire season.
- RI Thunder would like to use the fields again next year and is looking for a commitment from Norfolk by January 1 for the last weekend in July. Overall consensus is that tournaments such as this are a good thing and RI Thunder is welcome to return. Ann will contact RI Thunder.

Millis Flag Football

- Will's understanding is that Millis Flag Football (MFF) is using Norfolk's Playground field at the FK School for practices twice a week and has been for about 3 weeks without attending field allocation meeting or providing field allocation paperwork or paying fees. Insurance certificate has since been provided. This came to Will's attention by a Selectman. At approximately the same time the Selectman contacted Will, a Millis Flag Football Coach emailed Ann asking if fields could be used.
- Brendan wanted to clarify the situation and stated that he was a coach and a member of the MFF Board. He said he first heard of one team wanting to practice and said maybe one team would be ok, but then it turned into ten teams. Brendan emphasized it is the Norfolk dads that are coaching who decided to use fields in Norfolk instead of traveling to Millis for practices even though there are fields allocated to them in Millis. It is not the League that is telling them to play in Norfolk.
- Will stated that with 10 teams practicing, we need fees. Charles asked if MFF had an appetite for paying for fields and Brendan said not really since they are paying for fields in Millis.
- Brendan stated that next year we should get on top of it and say "If you want to play you have to pay".
- When asked if Millis Flag Football has told coaches to not use Norfolk fields, Brendan stated they had not.
- Brendan was asked how many more practices were left and he said they would be done before Halloween. Charles asked Brendan if he was suggesting letting MFF continue to play as is because there wasn't much time left in the season and Brendan said yes. Charles stated that he is not entirely opposed but there needs to be more done including written communication with the Selectman involved to clarify the allocation policy.
- Will further explained the extent that Selectman Kevin Kalkut, whose son plays in Millis Flag Football league, is involved. Kevin contacted Will to ask if fields could be used due to the EEE threat and Will said the fields are open. This information was given to MFF. It is felt that there may be some misunderstanding in the communication. Kevin may not have known that MFF did not have permission to use the fields or go through our allocation process. When Will said that the fields were open, he was speaking generally and was referring to the fields being open in relation to the EEE situation only. Since that time Will communicated to Kevin that MFF did not request fields or submit paperwork nor had fields been allocated to them. Kevin has yet to respond.
- Ann made the point that to a person looking in from the outside, Norfolk Recreation needs to be able to explain why one group with all Norfolk kids can use the fields and not pay fees, but another group with all Norfolk kids has to go through the allocation process, meet the requirements, and pay fees.
- Charlie I. suggested 3 options that Norfolk Recreation go back to Millis Football and offer*:
 1. Prorate the rest of the season and next year you have to go through the full process. Maybe the dads can anti up if the league won't.
 2. Let them know we are going to let it go...there are 2 sides to every story. Fees will be charged next year.
 3. Ask for the full amount of fees this year since they are and have been using fields.*Most importantly, fair and equitable treatment of everyone including the kids should take priority in all options.
- It was asked who knows that MFF is not supposed to be using Norfolk fields and Brendan stated that Jay, the president, knows MFF uses our fields. He stated that Jay, when asked for the insurance certificate, said that he didn't give us an insurance certificate last year so MFF has used our fields for more than just this year.
- Millis FF has not said to their coaches to not use our fields. They have just said that they have fields in Millis to use. Brendan said they have an app and can communicate with their coaches. Will stated if the league knows to not use our fields and they haven't said anything the consensus is to be less tolerant. Emphasis is made that it is not the coaches would know about field use or allocation, it's the league.
- Ann asked Brendan if MFF pays field fees to Millis, when games are played, and how much fees are? Brendan answered that field fees are paid to Millis, fees pay for use of town field and fields behind school for practice 3 days a week and games on weekends. He does not know how much the fees are. Brendan stated that MFF consists of 40-50 teams ages 5-14.
- Brendan asked if we should try to get some money out of MFF stating it doesn't hurt to ask. There was positive consensus. Charles emphasized that this shouldn't negatively impact the kids.
- Letter/Communication to be sent to MFF to discuss field use, explain our policies, emphasise fair and equitable practices, and wanting kids – including MFF kids- to play in Norfolk. Fees will be requested. Brendan to put this together and will send out to everyone tomorrow.

Field Maintenance:

Field Status

- Will and Ann have been compiling lists of field improvements for baseball, softball and soccer fields.
- For baseball the AAA field at F/K School and the Babe Ruth field at Pond St. have been identified as needing professional help done on those fields. Ann acquired quotes for STS to bring fields back to standard; a capital plan was put together and sent to the Town Administrator and Finance Director to inform them what we are looking at for the next 3-5 yrs. For Softball field if grass is taken out and infield mix is added up to the fence both softball and DPW agree it is easier to maintain and much safer field.
- STS quote for AAA field is for \$35,000 with prevailing wages; and \$14,000 for Babe Ruth field and \$20,000 for Softball field.
- Will has respectfully asked for CPC to meet tomorrow (9/25) so he can explain the need for field improvements and ask that CPC add to Fall Town Meeting. CPC funds cannot be used for routine maintain of fields but funds can be allocate for restoration. Recreation is asking CPC to fund approx. \$70,000 to do the AAA field, Babe Ruth field and Softball field.
- Will is suggesting to CPC that the \$70,000 be attached to one article instead of individual articles.
- If funding are not approved for all 3 fields, Recreation contingency plan is for the AAA field to be funded; then, Massasoit has offered \$3,000 to help pay for modification for Babe Ruth field and rest could be paid from Field Maintenance or Gift account or if need be we do have money in Revolving. If we can get the softball field work done than that will decrease the time DPW is spending maintaining that field and will free up time for the to do work on the other fields in town.
- Will would like to see the irrigation added to the CPC proposal for the AAA field.
- Town meeting is on Tuesday, Nov. 19th.
- Work on fields will take day and half for Babe Ruth, Softball is 4 days and AAA field is 5 days.

Grants – Brendan

- Brendan researched grants that are \$10,000-\$20,000 that are Sport and Recreation related; few are due in November, some example being Yawkee Foundation, Red Sox Foundation, Fireman Foundation and also a few through Parks & Rec but those are smaller amounts.
- Challenges for some foundations is you may have to apply few times and also some foundations focus on urban communities

Well Update:

- Put in an application to Eversource to restore 480 volt transformer on top of pole near shed to the well. Can also be used for light on telephone poles around football and Men's softball field.
- Jim from Island Lighting spoke to Peter Diamond (town electrical contractor) agreed that short term (5-110 7 years) would be to run electrical wires above ground from pole to pole.
- It may be a plus that we have added the lighting in the application to Eversource is that we have the potential to use 65,000 watts of electricity. This may reduce the cost the Eversource will charge us to put service in.

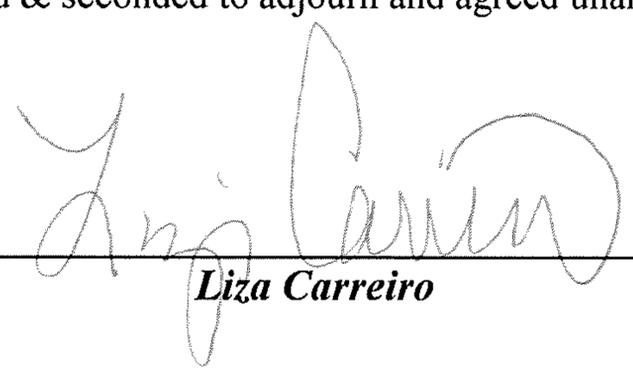
Next meeting:

- Tuesday, October 29, 6:30pm, Room G-7

The meeting was motioned & seconded to adjourn and agreed unanimously at 8:39pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy O'Brien

Clerk's Signature: _____


Liza Carreiro