

**Town of Northborough
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
October 1, 2019**

Unanimously approved at the November 6, 2019 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.

In attendance: David Putnam, Mark Awdycki, Sean Durkin, Faith Stevens, Scott Charpentier, David Robillard, Tracey Cammarano, Allison Lane and Michelle Cilley.

5:41pm—Meeting Called to Order.

5:42pm—September Minutes Approved. Sean Durkin (SD) made a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting in September. Faith Stevens (FS) seconded, all in approval.

5:44pm—Recreation Report by Allison Lane (AL). AL provided an update regarding the triple EEE threat in Town. She said that sports practice end times have been moved to end at 5:45pm. The public has adapted to the mandate by having sports practices indoors during the week and earlier games/practices on the weekends, until the first frost comes. Next, AL discussed revenue from the Recreation Summer Camp and the other ‘specialty’ summer camps. The cost for the Rec Summer Camp will have to be increased for next summer due to the rise in minimum wages. AL is considering raising the camp fees to \$260/child; it is currently \$245/child. AL said the price hasn’t been raised for at least 4 years. She is concerned about being priced out in the future and competing with other camps that may feature amenities that Rec Camp can’t offer, such as swimming, air conditioning, etc., but she is aware that the camp itself has a very good reputation despite lacking those amenities. The specialty camps provided great revenue again this summer, which goes towards paying Recreation’s salaries. Discussion followed regarding rental fees for use of Algonquin High School’s basketball courts, which are \$110/hour. AL added that she had to move Recreation’s fall Cross Country program to Shrewsbury High School’s track because Algonquin had no time available. AL next said that repair of the tennis courts at Melican Middle School won’t be on the Capital Plan until 2023. Pickleball would like AL to have those courts lined for their usage, which AL said would be \$2500 to paint 3 of them (half), but she may hold off as the courts are in the Capital Plan for 2023 to be redone. Lastly, AL told the Commission she had a signed letter of support from the Recreation Chair to move ahead with the CPC application process for the Disc Golf course at the Senior Center.

6:00pm—DPW Report by Scott Charpentier (SC) provided an update about the Lighting project at Melican Middle School. The project is near completion, the conduit is in, wires are being pulled next week, grading is near complete. The last step is regrading the fields, which will then be hydro seeded. SD commented that ‘it really is unobtrusive’ and noted how quickly the job was done. SC next said that Memorial Field Snack Shack has been repainted, and that the Town Common project is going well also and on time, grass is growing and work is expected to be done by the end of October. SC said that he’d been approached by a non-resident who was interested in donating a substantial amount of money towards the Common. SC said that it would go a long ways towards beautification efforts.

6:10pm—New Business.

Election of New Chairman. AL said that in recent years she has been remiss in rotating the role of Chairman and asked if any other members of the Commission would be interested. SD nominated FS, which DP seconded. The Board voted, FS is now Chair. The Commission thanked David Putnam for his service in his role as Chairman.

6:20pm—Old Business.

Recreation Open Space Project Participation. AL said that a member of the Commission is needed to advocate on Recreation’s behalf in the Recreation Open Space project, and that the first meeting is October 28 at 7pm. MA said he will plan on going to that meeting and consider attending future meetings. DP was involved in the Master Plan and said the Master Plan with regard to Recreation was so broad, whereas Open Space will be more in depth.

Assabet Park CPC Application. SC updated the Commission regarding the renovations at Assabet Park. He shared two schematics: the first was a lower cost at approximately \$100K and worked using existing playground equipment and with limited renovations, yet meeting the requirements for wheelchair accessibility; the second option at approximately \$500K showed significant upgrades, including new playground equipment, redesign of the playground so that it is age appropriate (i.e., no basketball courts), as well as being wheelchair accessible. SD asked

if the Town is providing any contributions, SC said 'some'. DP said if the improvements are having to be done because of a court order, then the Town should help out of its budget or Capital Plan. SC said that going through Town funding could be difficult because of the time constraints from the court order. Discussion followed. SC said he needed a decision from the Commission on which option to move towards. DP made a motion to accept the second option, MA seconded, all voted unanimously. SC will apply to the CPC for funding.

Dedication Ceremony: AL said that on Sunday, September 29, at Ellsworth-McAfee Park, the Marshall Family held its dedication ceremony of the Musical Notes installation to the Town. The installation is a gift from the Marshall Family to the Town in honor of their son Christopher, who passed several years ago.

Dog Park: Although the fundraising goal of \$16,300 for the proposed Dog Park has been met, fundraising efforts will still continue, which will help towards costs related to building the park, such as equipment, benches

6:32pm—Motion to Adjourn. MA made a motion to adjourn, seconded by TC, all in favor. The next Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 5 at 5:30pm.