

**Town of Northborough
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
September 3, 2019**

Unanimously approved at the October 1, 2019 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

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

5:37pm—Meeting Called to Order.

5:38pm—July Minutes Approved. Faith Stevens (FS) made a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting in July. Mark Awdycki (MA) seconded, all in approval.

5:33pm—Recreation Report by Allison Lane (AL).

Dog Park: The fundraising goal of \$16,000 for the proposed Dog Park has been met, largely due to a donation from the Del Re Family. AL said that fundraising will continue to provide money for fencing, etc. David Putnam (DP) asked if there were user fees, AL said no because it is state-owned property. DP asked what the \$16,000 is for? AL said so that the state would match with a grant. AL said there will be an area for small dogs, a separate area for large dogs, and an area that is supposed to be rested. The goal is to have it built next spring on the Yellick Conservation property on Hudson Street.

Dedication Ceremony: AL said that the Marshall Family has chosen Sunday, September 29 for the dedication ceremony of the Musical Notes installation at Ellsworth-McAfee Park. The Musical Notes Installation is a gift from the Marshall Family to the Town in honor of their son Christopher, who passed several years ago. DPW installed the Musical Note pieces and the Town has received a lot of positive feedback.

Recreation's Open Space Plan: AL said the last Open Space Plan by Recreation was done in 2010; needs to be updated or will lose the opportunity to receive grants. AL said that there is no representation from the Parks and Rec Commission on the Open Space Committee. She needs someone to step up and take this project on.

Staffing Partnership with DPW: AL discussed conversations she'd had with Administration and Scott Charpentier (SC) regarding 'sharing' a DPW staff person during the summer months to help as needed, for such tasks as moving large scale sports equipment (lacrosse nets, basketball hoops, camp items), trash removal from the pavilion, etc. AL said currently the DPW handles these tasks when available. SC said that DPW will 'house' the employee but Rec gets 'first dibs'. This individual would use Town trucks for these jobs. Rec will pay this person's salary with funds generated by pavilion rentals.

Additional Revenue Ideas: AL said she is looking at new options for bringing in revenue for the Rec Department, such as offering a cornhole league, which she is considering running at a spot with a liquor license. DP: the American Legion would be a great location. AL said she is also considering a dodgeball league in the gym for weekend evenings.

Triple EEE Advisory Update: sports practices have been changed to end at 6pm. AL said that the Applefest fireworks have also been cancelled.

6:15pm—DPW Report by Scott Charpentier (SC) Charpentier (SC) provided an update about the Lighting project at Melican Middle School. The project is on schedule, the conduit is in, last step is regrading the fields. AL noted that it will allow for 2 full-sized lit fields. DP: is anyone planning to maintain the baseball fields? AL said she met with Baseball and they only need use of the middle school's softball field. AL said she was going to hire Blue Ribbon to take care of it. MA said that the Lincoln Street School's ball field looks rough. AL said that the infield does look awful, and noted that there is no water there. DP asked if there is a cricket field in town yet? AL said not yet.

Next, SC discussed the Assabet Playground renovations. He'd hired a landscape architect (same used for the Town Common) to do space studies, 1) where the plan is 'bare bones compliant' and 2) a plan that provides a basketball

court and playground that is compliant with open access to all equipment. SC asked the Commission which way they would prefer to go; the group agreed that, since the park is a showpiece for the Town and is heavily used by kids each day, it should be done right and made nice. The CPC application is due in November so this will need to be discussed at the October Parks and Rec Commission meeting.

6:32pm—Motion to Adjourn. MA made a motion to adjourn, seconded by FS, all in favor. The next Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1 at 5:30pm.