

RECEIVED

By Karen Wilber, Town Clerk's Office at 9:36 am, Dec 17, 2021

**Town of Northborough
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
September 7, 2021
Approved on Dec. 7, 2021**

In attendance: Faith Stevens (FS), Gary Maggiolino (GM), Mark Awdycki (MA), Scott Charpentier (SC), Dave Robillard (Robo) and Allie Lane (AL).

Guest: Laura Hayes and Scott Rogers

6:30pm: April 6, 2021 Minutes Approved.

Gary Maggiolino (GM) made a motion to approve minutes from April 2021. Mark Awdycki (MA) seconded, all in favor.

6:31pm: Meeting called to order

6:35pm—Recreation Report by Allison Lane (AL).

Heidi Stapleton – hired in April left position for a job in Wellesley Recreation – she had applied there prior to applying to Northboro. Looking to fill position – will be tough as other towns are also looking too.

Recreation Fall programs have started. The first kid no school program at Rec Center – masks required / lots of time outside. The indoor programs after school and on weekends are slow to fill. All outside classes are filling up.

Summer Rec Summary – wrapping up / no covid cases during the summer/100 regular campers each week/ 1-2 other programs also ran per wk/ TBall well attended / schools were very accommodating/ had staffing issues/ both Directors quit same day with 2 weeks remaining/ 1.5yrs+ with no structure during covid made for tough days/ camp with lower kid #s still ran at profit

Fall /winter brochure- at printer/ available online – outside programs are almost full already/ Advertising doubled than previous years

6:44pm—DPW Report by Scott Charpentier (SC)

1. Shared winter streets grant for wheelchair ramps/ bike racks, pedestrian upgrades, lighted cross walks – almost completed

Scott Rogers (SR): Are streetlights required at cross walks?

SC: No, they are not. Intersections do require them.

2. Assabet playground – contract awarded, have equipment at the Highway barn. Construction is to begin on 9/20. Goal to open spring 2022.
3. CPC - pickle ball -funds were available 7/1, the LA has surveyed the land, we are in the concept phase now, bid out winter, construct spring, summer open goal.

GM: CHEERS for lights at MMS every night when the turn on during football / best the fields have ever been

6:54pm—429 Whitney St. First right of refusal vote

VOTE :429 Whitney St – isolated lot, no usable space for Recreation, all in favor not to purchase (FS, GM, MA)

6:58pm—Unleashed Dog Park conversation

A group of Northborough residents called “Northborough Unleashed” want to move forward in finding a suitable location for an off-leash dog park in town. They have written us a letter stating their intentions. Discussion was made about the letter.

Unleashed Letter: group wants to partner with Rec – concern is where, money & who will maintain. How would it be run – open to all, fee for tags – this would be a full-time position for someone in Rec Dept. & DPW where both depts are short staffed at this time. SC and AL both want to move forward with a dog park in town despite not having all the answers to the questions brought forward. Everyone agreed to approach this in 2 phases. First, we will go the CPC with an application to hire a landscape architect to determine an appropriate site to house the dog park. The next phase would be to purchase the land that was chosen as a potential site. Once land is procured, we would either apply for the Stanton dog park grant or go back to the CPC to build the park.

AL: MMS wants new fence around the baseball and softball fields, benches upgraded – AL reached out to Woo Sox to see if they have any grants available. Tennis courts have giant crack- nothing upgraded in 19 yrs at tennis court. Youth basketball wants courts refinished at all the schools, issue the schools plow them and they get ruined.

SC: you should do one CPC application for all improvements at the middle school into 1 application.

AL: that is a good idea, I will speak to Bob Obeirn from youth basketball about it.

High School – want a better partnership / youth groups and Rec cannot afford to use facilities at the HS.

7:30pm—Old Business.

BIKE RIDING AT 135 WALKING PATH- signs have been placed - 2 incidents regarding bike injuries at 135 – both were serious injuries sustained to adults by children riding on the walking path. In each case no one ever apologized to the victims.

Next meeting 10/5/2021

7:36pm - Meeting adjured

Motion to Adjourn – GM & MA