

Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

January 18 at 7:30pm

Attendees: Rick Amodei, Mark Sears, Kevin Smith, Dave Moreau, Holly Mansfield

Guests: John Coppinger, Coppinger Inc and Kristina MacPherson, Mahoney's

Mosquito: Sara Hart

Meeting began at 7:30pm

Approval of Minutes:

Kevin Smith made the motion to accept the minutes of November 21, 2011. Mark Spears seconded the vote. All in favor.

Organic Maintenance:

At a previous meeting it was voted to lime the fields. However, this was not done this past fall but will be put into the schedule for spring.

John Coopinger from Coppinger Inc. came to the meeting to introduce Kristina MacPherson from Mahoney's Organic Lawn Care Service. John is selling the organic field maintenance part of his business to Mahoney's. Kristina stated that they will continue with the plans and pricing that have been set in place with our current contract with Coppinger Inc.

Once we determine if the Organic Field Maintenance Contract is on a calendar year or fiscal year, the board will review the contract and take a vote at the next meeting.

Mark asked Kristina to send a company profile for our review.

Ice Rink:

The current plan is to set up the portable ice rink at Kimball's Ice Cream on Friday, January 20th in the afternoon. The weather is suggesting 6 inches of snow for Saturday. If this weather report stays consistent we will wait to put up the rink next week.

Holly will contact Dave Flannery to see if we can coordinate with the Fire Department to pump the water from the pond. Recently, Dave has suggested that he may not have anyone available to assist us this year. If that is the case, Rick will rent a pump for \$70.00 and we will pump in the water.

Banta Davis:

The current discussion in town is to put housing on the outside perimeter of the Banta Davis playing fields. The concern of the board is that the long term plan may be to take out the fields entirely and build on the entire complex. In the event that this plan goes forward, under the current proposed plan, Lot #4 would be the best location from Recreation's perspective.

This project can possibly be justified at this location because the waste water treatment plant is currently under capacity and should be used to the full extent. This site is also appealing to the Housing Committee because the site work is done.

Recreation needs to state a position on this issue. John Williams from the BOS is very proactive about this project. Recreation may not be able to stop this project from going forward but we should insist that our fields be replaced or protected.

In 1996 when Banta Davis was being built, there was no threat of this site being at risk for any future building projects; meaning that the town would not take or use these fields for any other purpose than recreation. The proposed plan is dated 2005 so the Banta Davis site has been on the table for quite some time and recreation is now being informed 6 years later.

Rick suggested that we request at the next Town Meeting that these fields are designated for recreational use only. Mark feels the best approach is to get support from active recreational families with children in various sports. These families can voice their opinions concerning the need to keep these fields in place.

Dave mentioned that we need to show a demand for field space. In the past youth sports serviced children in grades 5 and up. Currently the youth sports programs are open to children in grades 1 and up. There is not only a need to keep the field space we currently have but to build additional fields. We need to coordinate with Concord Recreation and determine the true need of field space to support our position on this issue.

It seems that this project may be a long way off but the Housing Committee seems to be moving fairly quickly. Our main goal, right now should be to strategize what we can and what we can not do. Mark does not think we will be able to stop the existing proposed project but is hopeful that we can protect our current fields on Banta Davis.

Kevin was recently appointed to the Friends of Concord-Carlisle Fields. This particular group will be able to prove the statistics on what is needed in regards to field space for the youth sport organizations.

Rick is a member of the Open Space and Recreation Committee and a 5 year plan has been requested. But it is clear that both Banta Davis and Spalding fields are the most visited open space areas in Carlisle.

Dave inquired about how we can find out the time table of this project. Rick plans to attend the next BOS meeting in February and will obtain more information on the project and report back at the next recreation meeting in February.

Diment Park:

The new safety audit is complete and the issues have been prioritized. Perhaps we could use the \$600 designated for maintenance and repair at Diment Park and Dan Moseley could address the issues. Dave is going to review the report and make recommendations for what needs to be done and how the needs can be met. Dave will report back at the next recreation meeting.

Field Opening Date:

Soccer has inquired about the opening date for field use. The target date has always been April 15th. However, it all is dependant upon the weather and when the fields dry out. If a date is provided, groups will begin their planning, make schedules and announce the field opening date. We will wait to announce the field opening date and try to go along with the opening date in Concord.

Enrollment for Programs:

Holly stated that the ski program enrollment is down from previous years. This could be due to the fact that there is no natural snow. However, after speaking with several parents it seems that parents want the option of ski lessons for their child. Currently, ski lessons are required for participants in grades 2-5 and grades 6-8 have the option to not take a ski lesson. Holly is considering giving all grades the option next year.

The programs that seem to be the most popular right now is sewing, fencing, theater, yoga, watercolor, pilates, and various art classes. The enrollments for these programs seem to be consistent.

Other programs vary. For example, karate could have 10 participants one month but then have to be cancelled the next month. Some programs take some time to get established and then after a period of time, enrollment is often sufficient to run the class.

Holly feels that it is important to organize many different programs and offer it to the community and see what sparks and interest due to the fact that the success of programs can vary from month to month, season to season or year to year.

Other:

The next meeting will be scheduled for Monday, February 27th at 6:00pm. Please provide any ideas for the agenda. Currently on the agenda we have the following:

- 1) Approval of Minutes from 1/18/12 Meeting
- 2) Organic Maintenance Contract
- 3) Banta Davis Update
- 4) Diment Park Maintenance Plan

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm