



Regular Meeting of the Longmeadow Board of Park Commissioners
Monday, January 11, 2021
Location: Zoom Meeting
Longmeadow, MA 01106

Present: Chair Rakas, Vice Chair Berke, Commissioner Horowitz, Commissioner Rintoul, Commissioner Greco and Director Jarvis

- I. Public Participation-** Mary Beth Bergeron of 497 Inverness Lane was in attendance.
- II. Approval of the December 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes** - A motion was made by Chair Rakas to accept the December meeting minutes as amended (change Item II, October to November), seconded by Vice Chair Berke. Individual roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously, without descent.
- III. Welcome to new Park Board member Andre Greco-** Each Park Board member provided an individual introduction and background.
- IV. Community Preservation Committee Update-** Commissioner Rintoul stated the next meeting is 1/12/21 where the applications will be discussed. There were only (3) applications received.
- V. Parks & Recreation Department Financials-** Director Jarvis shared the December Town Manager report.
- VI. New Business**
 - a. **Wolf Swamp Complex** – Mr. Rintoul asked the Park Board to support his request to stop plowing the Wolf Swamp complex after snow events. There is no paving and with the renovations it could reduce wear and tear. It is also requested to somehow limit access to the parking lot during non-use seasons.
 - b. **Potential 501(c)(3)-** Mr. Greco informed the Board of his intention to initiate a non-profit to benefit the needs of the Department. Four people are needed to start. This non-profit can apply for grants and funds necessary expenditures to ensure standards of safety and quality are met for programs, services and facilities.
 - c. **Field Maintenance and DPW-** Since there is no control of directive, no budget and limited allowed use of volunteers concerning park and field maintenance, the Department has no control over these items. It was suggested to invite DPW Director Mario Mazza to the 2/8 Park Board meeting to discuss use of volunteers and how the Park Board can help.
 - d. **Open Space Plan Update-** The plan has been submitted to the Commonwealth and is on both the Select Board and Planning Board agendas for endorsement.
 - e. **Skate Park discussion-**no update

- f. **Longmeadow Soccer Association-** Six members resigned. Communication was sent to the LSA Board from Chair Rakas with recommendations to review and amend current by-laws.

VII. Old Business

- a. **Wolf Swamp project:** information was shared from the December Town Manager report.
- b. **Adult Center/COA:** Weekly reports from the project manager are sent to each Park Board member on a weekly basis. Photos were shared that showed the grade from the new building to the playground arch.
- c. **Open Space Plan:** The preliminary approval from the EEA has been received. Final edits are currently being made. The first goal to be initiated will be park signage. The Mass Trails grant deadline is 2/1. The Director will work to apply for a preliminary application to cover design, inventory and production work.
- d. **Skate Park discussion:** The group last met in August. The CPC recipient is working with procurement to determine specs for the consultant bid. Vice Chair Berke that the working group last selected (3) tentative sites with one as the overall favorite.
- e. **Daycare Discussion-**Chair Rakas met with the Finance Director to discuss the decision to eliminate the daycare from the FY22 budget proposal. Chari Rakas stated the daycare is well-used by town residents and helps fund other important department assets such as the pools and park/facility maintenance.
- f. **Longmeadow Soccer update:** Chair Rakas will follow up to ensure they are working on obtaining new members and by-law improvements.

VIII. Announcements- Next meeting- 2/8/21 @ 6pm via Zoom

Adjournment- A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Horowitz, and seconded by Vice Chair Berke. Individual roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously, without descent.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bari B. Jarvis, Recording Secretary