



## RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**When:** Tuesday August 11, 2020

**Where:** Zoom Call

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81535084602?pwd=L1g4UXlUOE5laXkza21IZEUvQWU5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 815 3508 4602

Passcode: 931787

One tap mobile

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### **Present**

Ryan Kane

Anna McKeown

Andy Dutton

Jenn Lutz

Peter Hunter

Paul Boehm

Linda Escobedo, Select Board Liaison

### **Not Present**

Casey Atkins

Paul Grasso

Meeting called to order 7:01P

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM June 18, 2020**

1. Motion to approve minutes with amendments by Peter Hunter, second by Jenn Lutz. All in favor.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Amy Kaiser 294 Commonwealth Ave- here for a comment on the Gerow property.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

1. Peter Hunter (until next town meeting), Paul Grasso (April 2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> term), Casey Atkins (April 2022, 2<sup>nd</sup> term), Jennifer Lutz (June 2022, 1<sup>st</sup> term), Paul Boehm (until next town meeting)

### **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

# CONCORD RECREATION

- Mr. Kane announced that the Town Manager said that the general fund transfers will go away for the next fiscal year which will save Beede around \$80K and Hunt around \$200K

## Summer Camp

- Mrs. McKeown presented final summer camp registration numbers. In total, there were 674 summer camp registrations which was about 36% of the program's goals for the summer. The Department expects to about break even when the final financials are processed.
- Overall, there were 13 children that presented with COVID symptoms while at camp and all came back with a negative COVID19 test.
- Many thanks to Laurie Hunter and the Concord Public Schools team for allowing us the opportunity to use their school spaces this summer. Without that, we would not have been able to serve nearly as many children. Many other neighboring communities were unable to host camp due to space limitations.

## White Pond

- Mr. Kane outlined that the Department used reservation process for the pond this summer. 65-70% attendance rate for those that signed up for spots. Took waitlists and filled spots when possible.
- The pond will remain open through August 30<sup>th</sup>, one extra week.
- Mrs. Lutz mentioned that she went to the pond every day and is very appreciative.

## Visitor Center

- Mrs. McKeown shared information regarding the Visitor Center. Visitors range from 20-40 per day from mostly MA and New England.
- Tours started July 13th with a 1pm History walking tour- about 50% are running as scheduled. There are also new bike tours of African American History and 3 Cemetery Tour which will both start in September.
- The center is selling new merchandise including boxed water and small bottles of hand sanitizer and both are selling well.
- Beth Williams is continuing the monthly tourism huddle meetings with attractions, historic houses, NPS, retail and residents.
- Beth Williams has produced an ad with the GMVCVB that will be printed and shared locally as well as in Plymouth area hotels. There will be 5K printed.
- Beth continues to focus on economic vitality and recently hosted two drive in movies at CCHS. Both movies sold out. She is also assisting business with navigating Town and State Loan programs as well as promoting side walk sales and other small initiatives to get people into the stores.

## Beede Center

- Mr. Dutton reviewed that the Beede Center opened on July 6<sup>th</sup>. The membership trust is coming back with 300 coming back to the building thus far. The core membership number is around 900 and the Center is still not allowing 10 visit pass or 3 month people to enter the Center. They are hoping to have more users back in the building by mid September.
- There are 5 group fitness classes running online right now and hope to return to in person classes this fall. Fall program will begin Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- In terms of aquatics, the Center is seeing good participation numbers with the classes that are being offered. Anticipating a profit across the board but still down 25% from where the registrations usually are this time of year.
- There are a few rental groups coming back to use the space now including Boston Area Diving. Another diving program is back and in their second week and it is going well.
- Laura Diamond is a renter as well that provides water therapy programs to a diverse client base and we hope to have her back soon as well.

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- The center has been working hard to clean between groups and anticipate another adjustment in the coming weeks in terms of where reservations can be made, expansion of pool activity and lane use.
- Two part time personal trainers are back as well as one full time. Those that are back are doing regular training schedules.
- Compass Cleaning has been retained for another three year contract.
- 292:~900 member households have returned to the center so about 1/3.

## Reopening Plans in the Fall

- Mr. Kane reviewed the plan for childcare this fall for school after elementary school lets out at 12:30P and the Recreation Departments plan to provide care from 12:30-3:30P during remote learning time and then extended day from 3:30-6:00P.
- The program will run at the schools to eliminate the need for kids to be bussed home and to keep groups consistent.
- The program will follow the school in terms of COVID procedures and plans.
- The program will host up to 75 kids per site and we are saving spots for all families that were registered for our afterschool program as well as the Concord Children's Center.
- The program will be coordinated by Anita Hill with support from the Recreation Supervisors.
- Programming for the fall will open for registration on 8/19 for Hunt and Beede programs.

## **FACILITY UPDATES**

### White Pond

- Mr. Kane stated that the project updates will be presented to the Natural Resource Committee soon. The majority of the work has to do with storm water management and accessibility.
- Mr. Hunter asked if any of the work will be paid by CPC. Mr. Kane said yes.
- Mr. Boehm asked how the health of the water has been this summer. Mr. Kane said that the water gets tested weekly and the reports have been healthy. The blue green algae is more of a visual test and it seems like it has been a "healthier" summer than summers past. If it is in the area we can still swim so long as people do not come in contact with it.

### Gerow Property

- Mr. Kane referenced a letter of support that he would like the Commission to review as well as an outline of meetings and information about the property. Capital projects as a whole seem to be a topic of discussion across the town and Gerow was lumped into that. Gerow is being funded by capital project funds and CPC. Those fees are scheduled and awaiting Town Meeting for approval. To wrap up the last public meeting that Kate Hodges ran was 1) are we doing the project as a whole and 2) parking and the overabundance of parking that is being provided out of the gates.
- Amy Kaiser 294 Commonwealth Ave. Amy is a member of the West Concord Advisory Committee and she is speaking tonight for herself but reiterating some comments from the public forum that Ryan attended. Amy is in support of the property but wanted to bring up that members of the meeting and committee is the topic of parking. There are 48 spaces that will be constructed at Gerow. Compared to Rideout, there are 50 spots and that park allows for a plethora of activities to run simultaneously. It seems that the parking at Gerow could be much less for the passive recreation opportunities that the park will support. The suggestion from the committee was for the town to rethink the number of spots, potentially considering 30-35 spots, even just to start. Amy asks the Recreation Commission to consider this request as we draft a letter of support for the project.
- Mr. Hunter wanted to clarify the reasons for not wanting the parking.

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- Mrs. Kaiser reiterated cost, quality of experience, and improved the environmental impacts on the park.
- Discussion ensued regarding the parking spots and what role the recreation department plays in determining the effects of parking spots on the property and the exact number of spots that will ultimately be installed. Mr. Hunter recommended Amy speak to the planning board about the parking as the letter of support that the Commission will be submitting is in regards to funding the project for recreation purposes.
- Mr. Hunter put forth a motion to support the letter that Mr. Kane presented in supporting the Gerow property, subject to any edits that Paul provided. Motion to approve by Mr. Boehm, Mrs. Lutz seconded. All in favor.

## Town Meeting

- Still projecting a loss for the next fiscal year. Carrying a fund balance that will help to absorb some of the loss from FY20 and FY21.

## **REPORTS FROM LIAISONS**

- Mrs. Escobedo applauded the Recreation Department for all of the hard work.
- Mrs. Escobedo did make requests for General Fund expenses to
- Mrs. Escobedo asked for someone to be present at the public meetings for the budget presentations on 8/17. This is a joint public meeting between the finance committee and the select board. Materials can be found on the town website on the town meeting page.
- Mrs. Escobedo also noted that the select board heard a lot of feedback about White Pond this week including excessive swimming in Sachem Cove. Mrs. Escobedo wanted to know if that was something we were aware of.
- Mr. Kane said yes, we are aware of the swimming but do not have the staff to regulate that space as well as keep eyes on the beach.
- Mrs. Escobedo noted that the Select Board requested that the Town Manager's office come up with solutions.
- Mrs. Escobedo also noted that the Select Board recognizes the issues that are impacting the afterschool program in regards to the state and that the board is in support and ready to help.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

Next Meeting: Tuesday September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00P on zoom.

Motion to end the meeting made by Peter Hunter. Second by Paul Boehm. All in favor.

Meeting adjourn at 8:32P

*Minutes taken by Anna McKeown, Assistant Director of Recreation*