Approved: 2-11-2021

PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – September 22, 2020

APR29 21 3:59PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Steve Purdy, Chairman
Mr. Rob Wilson, Vice Chairman
Mr. Al Dias, Park Director
Mr. Joe Santos, Member at Large
Mr. Gil Almeida, Clerk

EMPLOYEE PRESENT: Mr. Matt Beane, Park Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 pm with Chairman Purdy leading the Pledge of Allegiance and conducting Roll Call of members.

PUBLIC INPUT
None

CORRESPONDENCE
None

DISCUSSION ITEMS
Castle Project Water Line

Colleen Brown, Town Conservation Agent & Bob Berube, Representing Pro-Line Engineering & the Project Owner, attended the meeting to discuss the approval of the ANRAD Proposal, that would allow the Conservation Commission to review/confirm the location of wetlands that would be crossed by the proposed water pipeline on Park property. Chairman Purdy would like wording in the proposal, that the Park Commission be notified of any changes to the route of the proposed waterline, prior to installation. Bob Berube stated that the Estrella's (Project Owner) will restore any structures along the pipe route to existing condition or better. Chairman Purdy also questioned whether or not the Town Attorney had completed his investigation regarding "Is Park land held directly by Park Commission or by the Town as a Public Trust," to which Colleen Brown stated she doesn't believe it is needed for this phase. Commissioner Santos motioned to approve the ANRAD Proposal. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gil Almeida. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

Eagle Scout Project

Ethan Kielec, a boy scout from Swansea Troop 303, presented his proposed Eagle Scout project, via email, to the Park Commission. The Scouts presented a walking path plan with stations set up identifying local species, Mr. Joe Santos and Vice Chairman Wilson both reviewed and approved the plan. Mr. Santos would like it to be stated who will be liable for mounting bird/bat houses. Mr. Santos motioned to accept the plan. Vice Chairman Wilson 2nd the motion. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

Recreation Commission Appointment

Chairman Purdy received requests from Recreation Commission (Christine Cestodio) and Janet Helley

(Administrative Assistant, Board of Selectmen) for the Park Commission to vote on appointing Mary-Jo Guadalupe to the Recreation Commission ASAP. Mary-Jo was the only applicant for an open position on the Recreation Commission, created when Becky Rosen did not wish to be reappointed. Chairman Purdy read a letter that Mary-Jo Guadalupe wrote, detailing her experience and asking to be considered for the appointment. Commissioner Santos motioned to approve the appointment. Commissioner Dias seconded the motion. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

Mount Hope Engineering Project

All digital files have been updated. The project is complete.

Conceptual Plan Update

Chairman Purdy has asked Starck to present an 80% pay arrangement now. Chairman Purdy also requested that if needed Starck be present at a future meeting. Chairman Purdy asked if any of the commissioners would be willing to work with John LaRue on this project. Vice Chairman Wilson said he will reach out to him. It was stated that the swings and 2 new pieces of equipment can stay. It was then said the rest of the playground would be scrapped and start fresh. The fences would be repaired in the next phase of this 5 year project. The roadway and the tennis and basketball courts would be towards the end of the 5 year project.

Dugout Repair Status

Park Director Al Dias stated that the volunteers would be at the Park to work on Dugout Repairs on Thursday, 9/24. Vice Chairman Rob Wilson stated that he reached out to Diman Voke. He was told shop classes would be resuming and the students are planning on going back to finish the dugouts in the next few weeks. Chairman Purdy asked Commissioner Dias to keep him informed of progress by volunteers.

Little League Lights Update

Park Director Al Dias is questioning what company is going to attach the lights to the ledge. Chairman Purdy is going to get more information on this subject.

Park Superintendent Input

Park Department Superintendent, Matt Beane, stated that truck is officialy broken down. One option presented was to repair it at a shop in Seekonk for $2,319.54. Vice Chairman Wilson motioned to use repair money to get the truck up and running. Commissioner Santos seconded. All in favor. Motion was passed. Chairman Purdy noted that he will continue working with Bill Anderson (Highway Director) on Park Dump Truck replacement by transferring a truck from the Highway Department to the Park Department as soon as that is feasible.

COVID-19 Pandemic Issues

None

Gardner House Status

The status of the house is still in the hands of the Selectmen. Letter sent by Chairman Purdy on 7/29/20 to Jordan Remy documenting the break-in at the Gardner House in July 2020, as well as, the deplorable condition of the house needing more attention than it has received. The Park Commission continues to wait for a response from the Selectmen.

LETTERS

None

Business by Members

Park Clerk Gil Almeida stated a resolution to two issues he came across. The first was a heating bill was paid to a wrong account, which has been resolved. The second issue was a double payment which has also been resolved.

Park Clerk Almeida questioned the bill for the conceptual plan. He is now waiting on Starck for the 80% payment option.

Park Department Superintendent Matt Beane needs to produce an invoice for Kubota attachments for Park Clerk Almeida.

Mr. Joe Santos commended Park Clerk Almeida for doing a great job.

Vice Chairman Rob Wilson is working on Facebook page for public input on the conceptual plan for the park.

Mr. Joe Santos stated he would like to see the Eagle Scout Project done in the off season and during regular hours so that Park Supt. Beane doesn't have to come in on his own time. Mr. Santos questioned the status on the daily time worksheets to be filled out by Park Supt. Beane. It was stated that Chairman Purdy and Beane agreed to fill out an hourly sheet. Park Clerk Almeida will work on making a new work sheet and a file on the computer. Mr. Santos questioned the status on Park Supt. Beane's evaluation which hasn't taken place in 6 months. Chairman Purdy recommended that not every member participate in future evaluations as some members don't even interact with him. Previous items which were an issue were discussed individually with Park Supt. Beane and improvements have since been made. It was also noted that a yearly calendar needs to be posted.

Acceptance of Minutes: July 28, 2020

Motion by Mr. Joe Santos, seconded by Park Clerk Gil Almeida to accept the minutes of July 28, 2020. Vice Chairman Wilson abstained due to not being present for this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Scheduled Meeting

It was agreed upon by members that the next Park Commision meeting will be November 10, 2020 at 4 pm.

Adjournment

Motion by Comm. Santos, Seconded by Comm. Almeida to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Wickman