



Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 6pm

Lu-Ann Souza called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. In attendance: Jeff Amaral, Robin Roche, Lynn Furtado, Brian Almeida, Brian Miller, Carlos Lopes, Ellen Lima, Amanda Barlow, Peter Jankowski and Lu-Ann Souza.

1. Approve the meeting minutes from 4/27/21.
This item was pushed to the next meeting as the committee's current quorum is nine members based on the up to fifteen member spots voted in at the Selectmen's meeting on 5/10/21. Peter Jankowski noted that we will rescind that vote and then have the committee number reduced to make a quorum achievable at an upcoming Selectmen's meeting.
2. Assign Chairman and Secretary roles
Peter Jankowski noted that the Board of Selectmen appointed Jeff Amaral to be the Chairman of this committee. Mr. Amaral accepted the nomination. Mr. Jankowski noted that the quorum is figured on the number of available seats on the committee, and he will be asking the Selectmen to reduce the number to 10 seats so it will be easier to obtain the quorum of 6 members for meetings & votes to take place at an upcoming meeting.
3. Review findings of property visits – each member of the committee gave their thoughts on the status, potential upgrades of each property.

Bandstand – 5 S. Main Street: all agreed needed flashing replaced on roof, paint, cement work. Mr. Jankowski noted that we generally have the Sheriffs come with the prisoner work program to work on this yearly but with COVID this did not happen in 2020. Mr. Jankowski noted that Rep. Fiola acquired a \$20,000 grant to improve this area. We will have these monies in August, and we do not have the parameters of the grant at this time but will share with the committee once received.

Hathaway Park – 24 Water Street: This area is in great shape. May benefit from some trimming and additional signage and picnic tables. There was suggestion to move the old swing set across to be with the other playground equipment or remove it.

KRR Ballfields – 9 Narrows Road. There are a lot of dogs on the fields and perhaps would benefit from signs "no dogs". Carlos Lopes noted signs are being purchased by the league. There was some baseball themed graffiti that may need to be removed. Someone drove their truck and left large ruts on field which is going to cost \$20,000 to fix. Accessibility for this field is an issue and with its proximity to Crystal Springs so it would be great if this is accessible that would be great. Suggestion of adding an accessible community garden. Suggestion of a dog park to be added. Couple committee members noted it does not seem to be utilized to its potential and there may be other uses like a farmer's market, community garden or dog park would all be great

additions. Stop 'n Shop uses the fields for spring baseball tournaments and cookouts. Ellen Lima noted that it is a mural is not graffiti and she feels it is done well.

Pocasset Park - Town Beach – 0 Long Pond Road: Accessibility is an issue for this area. Group felt picnic tables, pavilion or DCR style grills would be nice additions. Perhaps clean up the trees on the left as you enter, update signage, mark swim area. Lynn Furtado asked if sand was brought in. Peter Jankowski delivers sand to the beach yearly. Trash cans will be added along with a 4-yard dumpster which will be locked, and staff will empty trash containers daily M-F into the dumpster. There will also be porta-potties there Memorial Day – Labor Day. There were comments on that the cement barriers were not warm and welcoming. There was conversation on the current sticker is used by multiple areas (Hathaway Park, Transfer Station, Beach and Bandstand) and perhaps making a beach only sticker for summer 2022 and discuss if for residents only. Perhaps some trimming on left hand side as you enter after the gate. Brian Miller suggested food trucks and electric charging station for vehicles. Increased fees from out of towners may be an idea for 2022. Shed needs some work, paint or replacement.

Central Park - 2 Memorial Drive: The group felt this area is well maintained. Carlos Lopes noted the senior center uses the trails to walk and the VFW maintains Veterans Park. Mr. Jankowski asked if the basketball courts were maintained by the FreeLake Athletic Association. Carlos Lopes said yes, it is and noted they were not aware it was under their purview last year and have rectified that and take care of the trash, mowing lawns etc. He noted that lights will be added to the Babe Ruth field so they will be able to host an adult league next year. They also want to put lights on the basketball court as well.

Long Pond Boat Ramp – 211 Middleboro Road:

Carlos Lopes noted it is a high traffic area and a very small boat ramp and he viewed children swimming in the water while boats were coming in and out even though there is a no swimming sign. He noted there were a lot of signs perhaps too many. Checked a cost for a floating dock is \$25,000. He noted this may be something to think about in the future. Brian Miller would like to find out who is in charge at the state and town level and who oversees what? Mr. Jankowski noted we have a mutual aide agreement as we all have limited resources. We have limited staff there previously Sat-Sun only and we have hired a new person to expand those hours to ½ day Wed, Full Days Thu-Sun. Siding on the hut is falling off and needs updating. Amanda Barstow noted that the marked lanes, arrows on parking lot are confusing. Discussion on grassy area and whether or not people should park there and perhaps they could be charged for it. A suggestion was to pay a security guard to keep things under control.

Other thoughts:

Brian Miller suggested renaming some of these areas. Mr. Lopes agreed and noted that the land for many of these areas was donated and that may have something to do with the name. Ellen Lima note that Rezendes paid a lot of money and upkeep the fields for years and still to continue to donate to the fields to this day, per Carlos Lopes and feel they would not move to change the name.

Mr. Jankowski asked Lu-Ann Souza to send out the leases for all areas.

4. Discussion on how to break up responsibilities.

This will be discussed further at the next meeting. It was suggested for everyone to look at the Excel Spreadsheet Carlos Lopes did and add your ideas to the list to help along the discussion as priorities are discussed. Mr. Amaral feels this will be a great tool to utilize once we have decided what the priorities are. He would like to talk to Peter Jankowski and Lu-Ann Souza and put our hot spots we talked about tonight and put them in a priority list at a future meeting. Brian Miller suggested put together a list of their priorities to share at the next meeting.

5. Next Steps

Jeff Amaral will reach out to Lu-Ann Souza to schedule the next meeting on Zoom.

-Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeff Amaral at 8:09pm and seconded by Carlos Lopes.