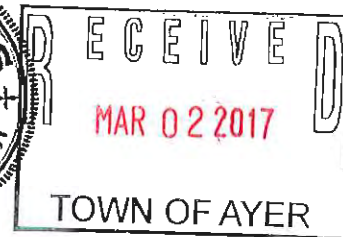


TOWN OF AYER PARKS COMMISSION Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:34 pm. by E. Hebert

Members present included: *Chairman* Jason Mayo (who arrived at 7:45), *Vice chairman* Dan Graham, *Clerk* Eric Hebert, *Member* Sarah Gibbons (She left early), *Member* Rich Durand, and Ayer Parks Director Jeff Thomas



REVIEW OF AGENDA: The Board agreed to begin the meeting with a review of the 2016 beach season.

BEACH:

- **Wrap-up:** The 2016 beach season went very well this year and ended on Labor Day. The parking sticker requirement successfully alleviated the parking shortage, and having Sandy Bean issue the stickers at Town Hall was very helpful. Gate receipts brought in \$7,500, falling somewhat short of initial projections after early revenues were averaging over \$100 per day. Next year we might look into having some retiree volunteers work at the gate and possibly open a concession stand. Eric said he would like to help out and Sarah said she would like to look into having two lifeguard stands next year.
- **Certificate Presentation:** The 7th/98th Army Reserves were very grateful for the Parks Department's assistance in putting on their family day celebration and presented us with a certificate.
- **Fall Projects:** Clean out Beach house and do carpentry and patch work. Work on growing grass in bare areas.
- Based on the OSRC report that was compiled over the summer, there are a number of ADA issues that should be addressed with the beach house, but overall there is compliance with ADA regulations, including adequate parking, graded and paved pathways, handicap accessible picnic tables and a special "sand" wheelchair available on request.
- **Joint meeting with the BOS and OSRC:** Jeff and Jason will get together Saturday afternoon to review open space issue and to consider ADA issues before attending the meeting next Tuesday.

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

- **Open Space (J. Mayo)** We have a lot of homework to do with open space and ADA compliance.
- **Complete Streets (E. Hebert)** The Town has a \$400,000 grant to make sidewalks ADA compliant, create a bikeway on Groton School Road, to pay for an audit of Ayer's roadways, and better crosswalk lighting downtown. It was a very exciting meeting.
- **CPAC: (R. Durand)** The CPC met and the Committee is getting ready for a new year. New Chapter 61 land will be coming before the BOS for consideration and we should be prepared to answer questions, though no one seems to be putting pressure on the BOS at this point. However, the Parks Commission has already endorsed the idea of supporting town purchase of the land for open space. We need to nominate a representative to the CPC. Meanwhile, we need to get more information about and talking points on the Chapter 61/Open Space issue. Things are moving forward at Sandy Pond School.
- **July 4 (R. Durand)** We have been very happy with the contractor (Mid-Maine Pyrotechnics) which has done a 20-minute fireworks display for the past four years at a cost of \$7,000 per year.

SOCCER:

- **ASYS (S. Gibbons)** Soccer began last week in Shirley. Matt Meadows joined the ASYS Board. There was a glitch with uniforms, but it should be resolved by this week's game. It is difficult for two people to maintain the fields. Keith cut the grass last Monday and Jeff put the lines down this week. Some parents have complained the Shirley fields are not in good shape, due mostly to the drought and grass not recovering.
- **AYS (S. Gibbons)** The program is growing by the day. We have four teams with 12 kids on a team and the kids are using all three fields. More uniforms have been ordered and Jeff will order flags and poles.

BASKETBALL:

- ASYB/AYB (E. Hebert) Basketball registration started today. It is projected that a good number of coaches will be staying with the program from last year. Each grade generally has between 10 and 15 players. Grades 5 – 8 fees are unchanged from last year, and all of the referees' fees are the same. We are in the process of reviewing the numbers, and while the number of fifth graders is low (five boys and six girls), there are 25 third grade boys playing this year and strong numbers in most other grades. Within one week of the kick-off ASYB meeting, a new member from Shirley resigned due to work-related issues. If a third person from Shirley cannot be found to serve on the six-member board, we will try fill in with a person from Ayer. The ASYB Board should have a representative in the gym for all games. There was also some discussion about the name for the advanced North Central Mass level, and there was general consensus that "Panther Elite" is not a good name for that program. The NCM League requires referees to be paid in cash, so Shirley has been paying them because the Town of Ayer frowns on cash payments. Eric is working on the issue. The PH School is having an open house next Thursday, and Jeff will bring forms and set up a table. ASYB Uniforms are all paid off. Fifty uniforms cost \$1300. Only four out of eight teams were able to be formed in the PE program because so many parents couldn't pay for the uniforms. Jeff projected we could charge as little as \$50.00 if we are able to use the same uniforms.

SHARED FACILITIES USE AGREEMENT:

- It is status quo at the high school, and trying to meet with the school and administrative staff has been frustrating. Our counterparts in Shirley believe waiting until the schools come to us is best because what we did last year worked very well. It has been decided to forgo any attempt at reopening the shared- facility-use-agreement unless the school requests us to do so. We need to get a tally of the school's cost for supplying custodians.

VOLUNTEER COOKOUT:

- The cookout will be held from 1—3 pm Sunday, September 25. Jeff will contact Scott and Heather Houde so they can come to the cookout to receive the 2016 Gibson Volunteer Award.

MOTIONS:

- D. Graham made a motion to permit Cub Scout Pack 32 to hold a cookout and use the fire pit at Pirone Park at no cost. E. Hebert 2nd. The motion passed unanimously 4/0.
- D. Graham made a motion to permit the New England Hurricanes to use Field 3 (provided there is no practice pitching in the grass) from 4-6 pm on Sundays with no fee. R. Durand 2nd. The motion passed unanimously 4/0.
- D. Graham made a motion to permit Bemis (of Shirley) to use Field 2 at Pirone Park for softball practice from 8:30 am – Noon September 18 through the 25th. R. Durand 2nd. The motion passed unanimously 4/0.

NEXT MEETING: 7:30 pm October 20, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT: D. Graham motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. and R. Durand 2nd. The motion passed unanimously 4/0

Minutes recorded and submitted by Jane Morriss

Parks Commission Approval Date 11/17/16

Parks Commission Chairman  (Jason Mayo)
