

AYER PARKS DEPARTMENT

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Minutes of February 27, 2020 - Ayer Parks Commission

Location: First Floor Meeting Room, Ayer Town Hall

Members Present: Jason Mayo, Chairman, Kevin Williams, Sarah Gibbons and Jeff Testa

Also Present: Jeff Thomas, Ayer Parks Director

Absent: Richard Duran

At 7:57 PM Ms. Sarah Gibbons made a motion to open the meeting. Mr. Kevin Williams seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (4-0-0)

Beach

Mr. Thomas stated that the group that rents the beach at the end of every year sent the Commission a plaque in appreciation of the use of the beach.

Payroll and Raises

Mr. Thomas stated that there is a new electronic system for submitting payroll for all town employees including seasonal part time parks employees. Time entered will need to be checked to ensure it is being conducted properly and the use of paper time sheets will still be required, and Mr. Thomas and Heidi will be able to approve all time submitted.

Raises for seasonal staff and lifeguards have been approved by the Finance Committee, as \$.75 plus 2% COLA. Any request for more should have been brought to the Finance Committee awhile ago but will look into raises for lifeguards next year.

Chairman Mayo asked how the Town compares to other towns in terms of pay for lifeguards.

Heidi stated that the town is in line with surrounding towns.

Spring Maintenance

Mr. Thomas informed the Commission that the irrigation system will be installed at the beach soon after the perimeter path is completed as it is the same contractor.

A list of repairs and maintenance needed for the bath house at the beach will be made after Heidi and Mr. Thomas evaluate what needs to be done.

Swim Lessons

Heidi mentioned that the Commission needs to discuss if they want to increase the fees for swim lesson. Currently the town has the lowest fees in the area.

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Chairman Mayo suggested a \$5 increase for all lessons.

At 8:17PM Mr. Kevin Williams made a motion to increase the cost for all swim lessons for the upcoming 2020 season by \$5. Ms. Sarah Gibbons seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve.

Projects

Storage Building

Mr. Thomas stated that there will be a meeting at the site on Monday to look inside the building.

Perimeter Path

Mr. Thomas called the contractor to remind them of the remaining items left to complete.

Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Thomas stated that the Eagle Scout that was supposed to come to the meeting this evening did not have all the items completed in time but will be at the next meeting.

Budget

FY2020

Mr. Thomas stated that the Commission's budget is a little tight but should be ok to finish the fiscal year.

FY2021

Mr. Thomas informed the Commission that the budget is still on the approval process and the next Finance Committee meeting is March 9th.

Incidents

Mr. Thomas stated yesterday that the park he saw a few individuals placing stickers on the signs around the area. He confronted them and asked them to remove the stickers they placed. Mr. Thomas informed the police about the incident as well.

Mr. Thomas stated that there was another incident at a basketball during practice with one of the coaches.

Mr. Williams stated that a coach placed his hand on a player's shoulder to turn her around to speak to her, the parents called in an "unwanted touch". The incident went to the Board, along with the parents and coach. All happened at the last practice of the year.

Family Friendly Events

Mr. Thomas stated that they will be holding an egg hunt again this year, as last years was a great success. Will need approval for the date and funds to pay for supplies. Will buy in bulk again this year to keep costs down. Would like the same amount as approved as last year.

At 8:33 PM Mr. Kevin Williams made a motion to hold the egg hunt on April 4th with a rain date of April 5th and to allow for the same budget as last year. Mr. Jeff Testa seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (4-0-0)

Basketball

Mr. Williams stated that there was one incident at the end of a game, he spoke to the player, the family and the coach all went well. An email was sent to help resolve the issue.

Mr. Williams stated that the Shirley Board is not keeping score at some of the games and there have been issues with gym coverage. Mr. Williams stated that he would like to have the town just handle all the basketball stuff and not share with Shirley as they are having issues finding people to manage their items.

The Commission held a discussion regarding basketball and how the town of Ayer could take over the program if possible.

Committee Representative Reports

Signs – None

CPC – Spring Town Meeting will be looking for an increase in funding for the CPC. Chairman Mayo stated that the CPC is looking for support from local boards. Mr. Thomas stated that there is money in the budget for signs to support the increase.

July 4th – Committee is working on the details for the parade.

Soccer

ASYS & AYS

Ms. Gibbons stated that the younger kids have about 30-40 kids per level, before the deadline so registration is going well. There will need to be an additional U8 field. The board also met this evening and will meet at the end of March with the coaches to finalize list. A coach is still needed for the little kickers program. Challenger program is closed and wait listed, waiting to hear when they will do elevations.

Basketball

Mr. Williams stated that the season is over, the Ayer program went well. The season ended with \$2800 left in the budget no jerseys or balls were purchased. Need to see Shirley's budget. There was no end of year event.

Volleyball

Mr. Thomas mentioned that volleyball will be coming back this year. It will just be in Page Hilltop and will be from 4:30 – 6:00 PM on Fridays, starting on April 3rd and run till June 5th. Will be for grade 3 to 5 with no other changes from last year.

Camps

Mr. Thomas stated that he is starting to get items together to start planning camps. Will be bringing the varsity coach for basketball, and will look into football for next meeting.

Ms. Gibbons stated that she has not spoken to challenger yet about the camp but will soon.

Next Meeting

March 16, 2020

Adjourn

At 9:38 PM Mr. Kevin Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Sarah Gibbons seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (4-0-0)