

AYER PARKS DEPARTMENT

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Minutes of January 29, 2020 - Ayer Parks Commission

Location: First Floor Meeting Room, Ayer Town Hall

Members Present: Jason Mayo, Chairman, Kevin Williams, Sarah Gibbons

Also Present: Jeff Thomas, Ayer Parks Director

Absent: Richard Duran and Jeff Testa

At 7:32 PM Mr. Kevin Williams made a motion to open the meeting. Ms. Sarah Gibbons seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)

Beach

Parking Stickers

Mr. Jeff Thomas stated that the Sandy Pond Beach Stickers will continue to be used for resident parking along the downtown area. Mr. Thomas stated that every year before he orders the stickers the Commission reviews the parking issue at the beach to see if they want to start charging for the stickers.

Chairman Mayo asked how much the stickers cost.

Mr. Thomas stated that he orders around 250 stickers and with the extra needed for resident parking he may need to order 500.

The Commission held a brief discussion regarding the parking at the town beach.

Chairman Mayo stated that the Commission will keep the parking as it has been again this year but will start charging next year.

Rehires

Mr. Thomas stated that the Commission needs to look at the procedures for rehires along with raises for the lifeguards, which will be approved at town meeting. A 2% raise is what the Commission has granted in years past, this will be different due to the change in minimum wage.

There was a discussion regarding having wages hire for lifeguards due to their specialized training.

Mr. Thomas stated that the Finance Committee recommended that all department submit a level funded. With an increase to minimum wage the suggested raise to all rehires is an additional \$.75 to bring them to \$13.00, with a possibility of going to \$14.00.

The Board discussed the idea of the two different raises proposals and decided to discuss further at another meeting.

Skating party

MS. Heidi stated that she would like to hold a skating party at Sandy Pond with a bonfire in the coming weeks if the weather allows. The pond will need to be shoveled and would like to do this as a free town event, during February vacation if possible.

Mr. Thomas stated that it would be best to wait to see if there is snow and cold weather for the event as there will need to be preparation to plow the snow and clear the ice. Mr. Thomas also asked if there was a department to check with in regard to the thickness of the ice for safety.

Heidi stated that she spoke to the Fire Department and they do not check the ice and has not heard from the Police Department yet.

Mr. Williams stated that it would be ideal to wait for snow for the event.

Projects

Storage Building

Mr. Thomas went over the progress of the new Parks building, stating that the project is on target to finish on time. Mr. Thomas expressed concerns with the location of the building and the possibility of kids being able to access the roof from the back of the building. A fence may need to be placed in the area.

Chairman Mayo asked if the garage would have a lift.

Mr. Thomas stated that there will not be a lift in the garage.

Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Thomas stated that there are two scouts looking to do projects for the Commission. The first is Commissioner Testa's son who is looking to set up exercise stations along the perimeter path. The other scout, Gram Wells is looking to put a bocce ball pit at Sandy Pond beach.

Tree Trimming

Mr. Thomas stated that Flagg tree service will be trimming some of the trees at the park and around the playground. Flagg also offered to take the playground when the Commission is ready to replace it.

There was a brief discussion about the removal of the playground and the remediation of the soil that would still need to be done.

Budget

Mr. Thomas stated that since the last meeting there was a meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the budget proposal. There was only one question on the proposed budget and that was for the study on the playground, kiddie junction. The budget was approved by the Finance Committee with a 2% COLA.

Incidents

Mr. Thomas stated that he had no specific incident to report.

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 of 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.

Camps

Mr. Thomas asked the Commission if they would like to offer the basketball summer camp to the varsity coach as they have done in prior years or have the old coach who has expressed interest.

Chairman Mayo stated that they should ask the varsity coach.

Ms. Gibbons stated that the old coach as offered to do both camps.

Mr. Thomas suggested that they offer the camps to the varsity coach with a deadline so as not to be late like last year.

Soccer

ASYS & AYS

Mr. Gibbons stated that registration for all ages is now open.

Next Meeting

February 27, 2020

Adjourn

At 9:08 PM Mr. Kevin Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Sarah Gibbons seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)