



AYER PARKS DEPARTMENT

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Minutes of October 19th, 2023 - Ayer Parks Commission

Location: Town Hall First Floor Meeting Room, Ayer MA

Members Present: Chris Tavares, Chairman, Kevin Malantic, Gerry Amenta

Absent: Jason Mayo & Sarah Gibbons

Also Present: Jeff Thomas, Ayer Parks Director, Sarah Ernst

At 7:39 PM Mr. Malantic made a motion to open the meeting. Mr. Amenta seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)

Public Input

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Malantic motioned to accept September's meeting minutes. Mr. Amenta seconded. (3-0-0)

Projects

Playground

Mr. Thomas reported that the bids officially went out and were due on October 11th. By the end of the deadline at 1pm, there were 6 bids. BETA had sent an email with all the information from the bids, and the Board of Selectman approved the Cella Construction Company, LLC to do the project at Tuesday's meeting. There have been some setbacks in the timeline for the project, but it will not be completed until the Spring. Some of the reasons for this is because the playground equipment order made in July is backed up until March and it will soon be too cold to install the pour in place material.

Field 1 Rehab

Mr. Thomas reported that the project is going well, the team finished removing excessive clay, leveling the field and reseeded the infield and outside edges. In certain parts of the field, the grass has been growing in spotty so the last thing to would be to edge the grass around the clay but with the warmer days they have been holding off on cutting the grass to allow the spotty sections to grow a little bit more. The Groton School also had a volunteer group come down for the day and helped edge and do maintenance on other fields throughout the park, as well as apply wood treatment to the fresh cut wood for the play area.

Beach House Study

Mr. Thomas reported that Weston & Sampson finished their memorandum of the Sandy Pond beach house which gave 3 different options for the commission to look over. With the 3 different options comes 3 different price points that need to be considered. Mr. Thomas advised the commissioners to use the Town Engineer to help them with any questions they might have, as the engineer will be a helpful tool to use.

Volleyball Pole Repair

Mr. Thomas reported that the project has yet to be started, it will most likely start the 1st week of November.

Gibson Award

After discussion within the commissioners, Mr. Malantic and Mr. Amenta had nothing but positive accolades about Mr. Bill Effler to be the recipient of the Gibson Award. Mr. Thomas also wanted to mention that Brad Spinney has been doing a lot of work for the natural space in the playground and would like to do something to recognize him as well in the future.

Mr. Malantic nominated William Effler for the 2023 Gibson Award. Mr. Amenta seconded. (3-0-0)

Incidents

None to report.

Facility Requests

None to report.

Volleyball

Mr. Tavares reported that the volleyball program has 3 sessions left to close their season, and the growth of the girls has been extremely noticeable each week. An additional event that is happening for the program is that they will be playing a scrimmage-like game against the high school JV volleyball team on Tuesday night. The end of the year party will be on October 30th.

Soccer

Mr. Amenta reported that the AYS U4-U8 season has been going well, there has been no rain outs yet. In the girl's U8 division particularly, the coaches have seen tremendous growth with the girls and an increase in confidence due to playing in a girl's division. Throughout both AYS and ASYS, the season has been going smoothly.

Basketball

AYB

Mr. Thomas and Mr. Tavares reported that registrations opened a little late due to uncertainty with gym space, but the school has given more clarification of what can be used. Registrations are coming in a little slower than usual but are expected to increase as the deadline approaches. The ASYB board will be meeting on Tuesday to discuss the season ahead.

Snowmen & Trees

Mr. Thomas shared that he has been approached about doing the snowmen and trees around the park again, and yes, the plan is to still do it this year and to keep the price for acquiring a new cutout at \$20.

Capital Planning

Mr. Thomas let the commission know that the date for capital planning had been moved up. Mr. Thomas advised the commission to keep requests at a minimum, especially since the need for the utility vehicle is high for the park. Mr. Tavares agreed to work with Mr. Thomas on the capital planning before the deadline that is October 27th.

Next Meeting

November 14th, 2023, at 7:00pm at the Town Hall if available.

Adjourn

At 8:39 PM Mr. Malantic made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Amenta seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)

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