



# AYER PARKS DEPARTMENT

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## **Minutes of September 21st, 2023 - Ayer Parks Commission**

Location: Town Hall First Floor Meeting Room, Ayer MA

**Members Present:** Chris Tavares, Chairman, Kevin Malantic, Gerry Amenta, Sarah Gibbons (7:34pm)

**Absent:** Jason Mayo

**Also Present:** Jeff Thomas, Ayer Parks Director, Sarah Ernst, Matt Blood

**At 7:04 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 approve August's meeting minutes. Mr. Amenta seconded. (3-0-0)**

### **Projects**

#### **Playground**

Mr. Thomas reported that the project is out for bid, the deadline for the bid is October 11<sup>th</sup>. In regard to all the equipment, it has been ordered, we are just waiting for a timeline of when all the equipment will arrive. One section of the playground will be nature-based, made mostly from the trees that were taken down in the area. They will all be milled by Brad Spinney, who is generously volunteering his time. There are a few logs that are out being milled, and the other half of the logs will be picked up next week.

#### **Field 1 Rehab**

Every year, Mr. Thomas and his crew work on a field to keep it up to date. Mr. Thomas showed pictures to the commission of the work that his staff has been doing on Field 1. They have already cut the sod, rolled it up and have taken it off the field. They plan on releveling and reseeding the infield grass next week.

#### **Beach House Study**

Mr. Thomas reported that the company that is doing the study, Wesson and Sampson, will be giving a package of options for the beach house in mid-October.

#### **Volleyball Pole Repair**

Mr. Thomas gave a recap of the volleyball pole that broke down at the beach. They had a temporary fix for the season. After the Field 1 project is over, fixing the pole is the next project to get done. If needed, the DPW is on standby to assist with this project.

### **Beach**

Mr. Blood reported that the docks were pulled up the weekend after Labor Day and the beach house fridge was cleaned out as well. Mr. Blood will have a debrief meeting with all of the lifeguards, at the moment they all have intentions of coming back next season. Mrs. Gibbons will also have a debrief with Mr. Blood for any changes to implement for next year as well.

### **Gibson Award**

The Gibson Award is given out to an individual for being an outstanding volunteer of the year. Mr. Malantic nominates Bill Effler for the award. The commissions agreed to nominate other finalists at the next meeting.

### **Incidents**

Mr. Thomas reported that there was an immense number of yellow jackets in the soccer shed. Because of how big the nest was, they had an exterminator come in and eradicate the nest. The soccer shed is now pest free and able to be used again. A few other issues that were noted were people smoking and dogs having been taken off leashes.

### **Facility Requests**

Mr. Thomas reported that PACE has asked them to store their canoes behind the building locked up, the commission approved the request.

Mr. Tavares reported that he had gone to the school committee meeting to address concerns and questions regarding the high school gym not being open and what that looks like for gym space in the other schools for our youth basketball programs. After talking to ASRSD superintendent Dr. Rhenda he has ensured that the youth programs will have Saturdays and weekdays at Page Hilltop. At the middle school gym, they will have all day Saturday for all levels of play and if needed 4 hours on Sunday morning.

### **Volleyball**

Mr. Tavares reported that volleyball had just finished their 3<sup>rd</sup> session and there are 16 girls registered. Because of the lack of school gym space and having to use the smaller PH gym, they had to limit registration. The improvement in the first 3 sessions is very impressive. The goal is to have a scrimmage against the JV volleyball team sometime in the future if schedules allow it.

### **Gaga Ball**

Mr. Malantic shared that the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Gaga Ball went really well. It lasted 4 weeks and ended off with 22 kids all varying in skill level. Next year Mr. Malantic is hoping to change the format for more inclusion.

### **Soccer**

#### **ASYS**

Mrs. Gibbons reported that there are multiple teams at each level which has been a real boost in the program, it has been fantastic so far. One minor issue that was a trickle down from last season, there had been a coaching issue with a board member stepping in to help coach the rest of last season. After having a meeting with ASYS and the Shirley Recreation Committee, they had agreed to a 1-year probation period for the parent involved. That parent has been meeting those requirements with no issue.

## **AYS**

Mr. Amenta reported that they are in the third week of the season, and it has been going really well. One exciting change was that with the high number of registrations at the U8 level, they were able to create both a boys and girls division.

## **Basketball**

Mr. Tavares shared that after having a conversation with the superintendent, that the basketball program will happen this year, which was the ultimate goal. With not having the high school gym there was the question of whether youth basketball could have a season. Having a guarantee to have at minimum space for Saturday games, registration will open on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Information will be emailed out to past participants, so they are aware of potential changes and that registration is now open.

## **Next Meeting**

October 19th, 2023, at 7:00pm at the Town Hall if available.

## **Adjourn**

At 7:59 PM Mr. Malantic made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Gibbons seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (4-0-0)

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