

Parks Department Updates

August 2019

Four bids came in for the construction of the proposed Pirone Park storage and office building, all of which were considerably over the budget of around \$500K. The bidding process included having contractors place a base bid on the overall project, then place additional bids on potential alternate projects such as a third bay and a porch at the entranceway. The Parks Commission will be reviewing these bids at their next meeting to decide the best course of action. Potential options include putting the project back out for rebidding and hoping the climate changes to attract better offers, or seeking out additional funding, most likely at the fall Town Meeting. The Parks Director, Town Manager, DPW Director, Town Engineer and Building Superintendent have all been working diligently to make the best recommendation to the Parks Commission on this matter. It is hopeful a bid can be accepted by late October.

Sandy Pond finished its regular swim season on Labor Day, with one final session scheduled for mid-September to allow a local military group and their families a have a cookout. This has been an annual event for the last four years, something the Parks Department has been proud to offer our servicemen for their dedication and service. All outgoing waterfront staff were given an exit interview to review the year and discuss any ideas they may have for improvements in upcoming seasons. Many of the improvements we have made over the years have stemmed from these interviews, as we find our lifeguards and gate attendants feel very invested in the facility and want to see its potential maximized.

The Parks Department benefited from yet another Eagle Scout project in August, this time from Sean Woodward, who built two decorative benches for the basketball courts at Sandy Pond Beach. These have already been used extensively and are a great addition to the courts, which will be having their own makeover with new hoops in the coming month.

Jeff Thomas

Ayer Parks Director