

Parks Department Updates

August 2020

After many months of planning, development, construction and final details, the Parks Department officially moved into the new Building at Pirone Park. It will still take some time to set up the office and maintenance work stations, but it is currently operational and has already been a great asset for Parks employees to enhance their productivity. Of most importance, the new building offers four season use, something no other building on parks properties could offer in the past. Having full use of utilities such as heat and running water will allow the work season to be extended past the first freeze of fall and final thaw of spring.

The Parks Department has been trying to set up potential activities for the upcoming fall and winter seasons, but continue to have difficulty doing so due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns. Board members for both the Basketball and soccer subcommittees have met and are hoping to set up seasons for each. The AYS and ASYS Soccer Boards felt confident that some form of season could be put together in late September as long as no further state restrictions were introduced. Guidelines from Mass Youth Soccer helped to form a template for structuring a format that could be put in place to ensure players and spectators would be kept safe. For the older players, it was decided to not participate in NVYSL travel league and instead keep all players in town, similar to what is set up for the younger players. Challenges would include limiting the number of spectators and keeping masks on players during their time on the field.

The AYB and ASYB Basketball Boards were not as confident a season could be set up, but have a bit more time until their season would start, generally in early December. Basketball offers far greater challenges due to both the need for indoor venues and the close proximity and amount of physical contact between players. Since the program is dependent on gym space provided by the schools, it may be some time before they are allowed to be used by the public again. Still, the boards wanted to remain optimistic and put a plan in motion to have a season if conditions changed enough by winter to allow a program to be formed. This will continue to be worked on through the fall.

A second mural was completed at Sandy Pond, this one put together by one of the Parks Maintenance crew members, Olivia Logan. It has generated many positive reviews, and should be something many patrons will be able to enjoy when the swim season is able to resume.

Jeff Thomas

Ayer Parks Director