

APPROVED COPY

Parks Commission Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2011 at Legion Hall

ATTENDEES: Don Black, Jeff Ohringer, Laurie Smigelski, Jon Strauss

ABSENT: Dave Howes

GUESTS: Don Billingsley, Anna Eliot, Gineane Haberlin, James Lawrence, Rick Mason, Tim Svarczkopf

Don Black opened the meeting at 7:01 pm and introduced the new administrative assistant, Becky Babcock.

READING OF THE MINUTES: Minutes for the August 10th and August 31st meetings were read. The meeting minutes for August 10th were approved - 3 yes, 1 abstained. The meeting minutes for August 31st were approved - 3 yes, 1 abstained.

BILLS SIGNED:

- GELD:
 - 5 Commons \$ 32.50
 - Basketball Court \$ 35.92
 - Chicopee Row School #7 \$ 6.75
 - Cow Pond Football Stand \$ 150.90
 - Cow Pond Parking Lot \$ 12.00
 - Cow Pond Soccer \$ 227.91
 - Cutler Field \$ 6.95
 - Sawyer Common \$ 6.50
 - Stonebridge Fields \$ 128.03
 - Wheeler Park \$ 6.75
- Waste Management \$ 151.95
- Triangle (Portable toilets) Aug \$ 595.00
- Triangle (Portable toilets) Sept \$ 595.00
- Garside Monuments \$1,100.00
- Joe Twomey – 3 Mums \$ 24.00
- Montachusett Lawn Sprinkler \$ 907.00
 - Mr. Ohringer asked Montachusett to look at the problem. Montachusett went ahead and fixed the problem without permission and presented this bill. The consensus of the Commission is that we should pay this bill if we have the funds. However, in the future, vendors will be requested to look at a problem and provide an estimate. It will be clearly stated that the work should not be done

without the Commission's approval and if they do, they may not receive approval to be paid.

CORRESPONDENCE – There was correspondence which required no action.

FIELD USE REQUESTS

- Groton Board of Trade for Grotonfest on Legion Common – September 24th and 25th (rain date) – approved by a unanimous vote
- PTA Florence Roche/Boutwell for Halloween Parade at the Town Field – October 23rd – approved by a unanimous vote
- James Lawrence on behalf of the First Parish Church for a Halloween Spook Walk on Minuteman Common – access needed from October 22nd through November 1st. Actually open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, October 29-30 and possibly Friday night October 28th. – The commission after much discussion determined that they felt there could be a huge safety issue with having it at the Minuteman Common. Mr. Black suggested to Mr. Lawrence that he consider the Town Field for holding the event. The commission felt that Mr. Lawrence should approach the police department and let them know what he was planning and get their feedback. Mr. Lawrence is to come back before the Parks Commission with that feedback at the next meeting on September 28th.

REPORTS

- Exhibition Barn at Hazel Grove Park
 - Basic problem and concern is for the safety of the horses and people. Therefore, the barn should be stabilized for the winter.
 - There is a warrant for the Fall Town Meeting to approve \$30,000 in order to remove the exhibition barn. In order to remove the warrant, a plan has to happen to make the barn safe.
 - Discussion was held that if the Building Inspector, the DPW and Val Prest could all approve a temporary fix, the barn could be stabilized for this winter at least.
 - The Hazel Grove Committee has tried to get a consensus regarding the barn. Mr. Svarczkopf said the committee has no great love for the building, however, if it comes down, it will be much harder to have the site declared as a National Historic site. The committee's report will not be ready for another 8-10 months.
 - There was much discussion with the Riding and Driving Club over possibilities of having the property leased to them and for them to repair the barn. They are not in a position to do that now. The members were concerned over all the repercussions a lease may bring.
 - It was brought forth that Community Preservation Funds could possibly be used to repair the barn. If so, they would not be approved in time for this winter. Also, the CP committee would definitely want to know that a revenue stream would be available year after year in order to keep the site maintained.
 - Discussion on this issue will continue at the September 28th meeting.
 - Mr. Svarczkopf reported that there is a problem getting a quorum at the Hazel Grove Committee meetings. There are many members to this committee and

many of them never come. Mr. Svarczkopf asked if there was a way to remove some members that never come so that the people who do come all the time will constitute the quorum. Mr. Black suggested that he speak to the Town Clerk, Mike Bouchard about how to resolve this issue.

- Cow Pond Old Well Update – As of today, the irrigation is done at the Field of Dreams. It was mentioned that it would be good if the well were deepened.
- Cutler Field Pump Repair for irrigation system
 - Bids are being requested for new pumps
 - Need to determine what is wrong in order to get the bids correct

OLD BUSINESS

- Police ticketed many people attending games at Cow Pond fields. Mr. Black spoke to the Chief of Police in regards to getting those tickets abated. He referred Mr. Black to Kathy Morin who receives the traffic ticket payments. The problem is that there is not enough parking and people will park on the wrong side of Cow Pond Brook Road when it gets crowded. This is a Public Health and Safety issue. The police will be putting better signs up to let them know where not to park. The entrance to the baseball field has deteriorated greatly preventing people from even trying to go to those parking spaces. Mr. Black will talk to Tom Delaney, DPW manager about keeping it in usable condition. If the DPW cannot handle it, then Parks should vendor it out. It was determined that we need a short-term solution for the remainder 6 weeks of the season. Mr. Delaney will be invited to our next meeting to discuss this issue.
- Regarding the proposed Goals and Objectives, there will be a vote at the next meeting to elect officers for the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

A suggestion was made to invite those in charge of the leagues that use the fields to our meetings on a quarterly basis.

ADJOURN/NEXT MEETING: Meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm. The next meeting will be held at the Legion Hall on Wednesday, September 28th at 7:00pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Becky Babcock

Administrative Assistant

Parks Commission