

APPROVED COPY

Parks Commission Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2012 at Legion Hall

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

ABSENT: none

GUESTS: Gineane Haberlin, Bob Johnson, Bennett Marston, Julie Marston

MEETING OPENED: Mr. Black opened the meeting at 7:04pm.

READING OF THE MINUTES: Reading of the June 13th, June 27th, and July meeting minutes. All were read and approved, the June minutes with minor amendments.

BILLS SIGNED:

- Atlas Pyrovision Productions, Inc. \$ 495.00
- Montachusett Lawn Sprinkler - Soccer \$ 639.35
- Montachusett Lawn Sprinkler – Stonebridge \$ 622.90
- United Site Services – Portable restrooms \$ 544.00
- United Site Services – Portable restrooms \$ 120.00
- Needham Gettens Electric \$ 294.02
- Waste Management \$ 46.37
- Moore Lumber and Hardware \$ 475.20
- GELD:
 - Cow Pond – FB Field \$ 6.75
 - Cow Pond – FB Stand \$ 156.45
 - Cow Pond – BB Field \$ 60.40
 - Cow Pond Ball Field Parking Lot \$ 12.00
 - Cow Pond Brook Soccer \$ 250.56
 - Stonebridge Fields \$ 51.38
 - Cutler Field \$ 57.34
 - Wheeler Park \$ 6.75
 - Basketball Court(park) \$ 28.23
 - 5 Commons - Flagpoles \$ 32.50
 - Sawyer Common \$ 6.50
 - Chicopee Row at Sawtell \$ 6.75

CORRESPONDENCE:

- June Budget reports
- Survey request from Atlas.
- Thank you letter from Pony Club member Emily Messer.
- Thank you letter from Pony Club member Lauren Messer.
- FY 2013 Budget Reports from Accounting Department.
- Notice of Decision memo from Town Clerk to abutter's of Cell tower at Cow Pond Fields.
- Memo from Town Manager regarding Fall Town Meeting on Monday, October 15th.
- Memo from Town Manager regarding change of Town Hall Hours starting September 10th.
- Fixed Assets memo from Patricia Dufresne, Accountant in Training.

FIELD USE REQUESTS:

- Request for Town Field and Gazebo for Sunday, August 26th, 12-6pm from Three Rivers Arts. Approved unanimously.
- Request from MIT to use Cow Pond baseball for Thursdays in July and August for pickup games. This was not approved because the Cow Pond fields are too brown to be used in August.
- Request for Town baseball field on August 2nd for Birthday party was received on July 30th. Mr. Black approved the request on July 30th.
- Request for Town Field and Gazebo for Friday, August 24th for an Arts and Music Festival sponsored by the organization Deltion. Mr. Black had questions for the group's representative, Christian Arthur, who was not present. He requested Ms. Babcock to have Mr. Arthur call him.

REPORTS:

- Eagle Scout Project updates
 - Bennett Marston wants to work on a walkway for Sawyer Common using concrete that looks like bricks.
 - There are two possible projects that have no scouts assigned to them. They are repairing the fence around Minuteman Common and putting stone benches at Sawyer Common.

- Hazel Grove Agricultural Association Appointments –

Mr. Black moved that the appointments be Gineane Haberlin, Meredith Scarlett, Tim Svarczkopf, John Ott and Linda McCrossan. Also that leeway will be given to add advisors and non-voting members. Anna Eliot and Laurie Smigelski would be in advisory positions. Mr. Ohringer moved the motion. Mr. Strauss seconded the motion. The motion passed with four yes votes and one abstention.

- Soil testing Results on playing fields

- Results are back for Cow Pond fields only.

- Granular fertilizer is proper to use on field but we need to apply lime to correct the pH factor. Mr. Black will talk to Tim Madigan for a recommendation on what to do to lime the fields.
- There is a lot of moss growing on the Cow Pond fields.

- Soil tests will be done annually on all fields

- This year's results on the rest of the fields should be in by the September meeting.

- Preliminary planning on FY14 – Mr. Strauss

- Mr. Strauss gave an overview of the things that need to be thought about and discussed in planning for the FY14 budget.

- Where do we want to be – what do we think Parks should be taking care of instead of the sports leagues.
- Preventative maintenance program for fields and commons.
- Capital plans – what projects do we think we should be doing.

- Mr. Strauss is projecting the possibility of requesting double the funding that Parks currently is receiving.

- Field of Dreams update – The Mass State Cal Ripken State Championship was held here and was very successful. The only complaints that Mr. Ohringer received were regarding the state of the Port-o-potties. Mr. Black reported that they were refreshed on Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Budget items for FY13
 - Mr. Strauss would like to put a warrant in the Fall Town Meeting for the Parks Commission to receive more funding for FY13, so that we may have the opportunity to provide services and safety at the fields and commons rather than rely on the DPW to get things done. Parks items tend to be at the bottom of the DPW list.
 - Since warrant articles are due by August 23rd, Mr. Black will ask for a placeholder on the Town warrant for funding to do fall liming.
- Brian Alcott has expressed an interest in using Cutler Field next year for softball. Softball is currently using the school fields and is looking for an alternative.
- Mr. Strauss will look into the association for Parks people to see how it may help the Commissioners.
- Mr. Strauss brought up the issues of Middle School half days when the kids congregate at the Town Field and cause much destruction and litter. Mr. Black will talk to the new Interim Superintendent and the Town Manager to determine if there is any way to prevent this from happening on the half days.

ADJOURN/NEXT MEETING: Mr. Black adjourned the meeting at 9:13pm. The next meeting will be held at the Legion Hall on Wednesday, September 12th at 7:00pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Becky Babcock

Administrative Assistant

Parks Commission