

# APPROVED COPY

## Parks Commission Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2012 at Legion Hall

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

ABSENT: none

GUESTS: Brian Alcott, Pierre Comtois, Kate Shamberger

MEETING OPENED: Mr. Black opened the meeting at 7:01pm.

READING OF THE MINUTES: Mr. Black made a motion to move the reading of the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes to the October meeting. Mr. Strauss moved the motion and Mr. Ohringer seconded. The vote was unanimous to move the reading of those minutes.

BILLS SIGNED:

- Carrot-top (for flags)                      \$205.19
- Sierra Tree Service                         \$1,240.00

BUDGET MEETING:

- Groton-Dunstable Youth Softball - Representatives Mr. Alcott and Ms. Shamberger told the commissioners that they would like to make Cutler Field their primary location in 2013.
  - Softball is currently being squeezed out of the High School and Middle School fields by lacrosse and soccer.
  - The need is three fields. Cutler has two fields with room to make a third.
  - The softball league wants to present a plan to renovate Cutler Field, to accommodate their needs, using Community Preservation Funds. November 12<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for submitting a summary of any proposed requests for CP funds.
- Soccer requests are:
  - Yearly aerating and liming
  - Trash removal/recycling
  - Additional field space

- More lights
- Running water in Snack Shack
- Liming and aerating – A single liming in late fall every year would cost approximately \$2000 - \$2300 for all fields. Aerating would cost the amount of the diesel fuel that would be used.
- Basketball Courts - The major need at the Town Field court is to fix the drainage issues in order to save the court. Discussion was held regarding having the DPW do the work. It would cost about \$1,000 worth of stone for a French drain and about \$250 to fix a crack. The Cutler Field court needs new backboards and nets and fence repair.
- Fence repair is needed everywhere. In addition to Cutler Field, the Town Field stone wall needs repair and all other fencing at the other fields needs general maintenance. The current budget only has \$2500 for fence repair. Ms. Smigelski will find out what is needed at Hazel Grove.
- Hazel Grove – Stone dust is needed for the Riding and Driving Club.
- Electricity at Cow Pond fields is very expensive. It is currently costing around \$4,000/yr.
- Irrigation/Pumps – these need a lot of maintenance.
- Infield Mix – It would cost around \$2500 to have someone other than the DPW to do this in a timely fashion.
- Commons – Ongoing maintenance is about \$1000. Wheeler needs a lot of weeding.
- Trash Pickup – For some fields it would be good and for some fields it would not.
- Current Budget breakdown:
  - Electricity - \$4,000
  - Stone Wall Repairs - \$2500
  - Fencing Repairs - \$2500
  - Fertilization - \$7100
  - Diamonds, Infield Mix - \$4500
  - Commons - \$4275
  - Port-a-Potties - \$6300
  - Sprinkler Maintenance - \$3000 (Spring turn on/Fall turn off)
  - Telephone - \$110

- Total = \$34,285
- The commissioners are looking at increasing the budget to 50K-55K.
- Proposed Projects – these need to be prioritized.
  - CP funds are available for active recreation, however, the funds were rolled back into a General Unallocated Reserve. Mr. Strauss would like to get those funds reinstated to active recreation only.
  - Look at putting new fields in near the DPW. There are 35 acres of town-owned land there. Soccer, lacrosse, and football would benefit from additional fields.
  - Work with High School to put in a turf field for football and lacrosse and share the use. CP funds cannot be used for turf fields.
  - Lawrence Academy did a great job on their soccer fields this past summer. Find out how much they spent and how they spent it.
  - Lights on fields and parking lots
  - Exhibition Hall at Hazel Grove

ADJOURN/NEXT MEETING: Mr. Black adjourned the meeting at 8:54pm. The next meeting will be held at the Legion Hall on Wednesday, October 10th at 7:00pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Becky Babcock

Administrative Assistant

Parks Commission