

WEST BOYLSTON BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSIONERS

September 24, 2020 6:06 PM (zoom meeting)

Members Present: Andrea Allen, Steve Blake, Jim Pedone (chair), Paul Scally

Members Absent: Gary Flynn

Guests: Chris Rucho

Jim opened the meeting by reading the Governor's statement regarding holding virtual meeting during the Covid-19 pandemic and explained that votes need to be done with a roll-call.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion Originator: Steve Blake
- Motion Description: Approve March 16, 2020 minutes.
- Motion Seconded: Andrea Allen
- Motion Discussion: - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **All Approved**

Treasurer's Report

FIELD	RECREATION	PRIDE PARK	DPW/PRIDE PARK	DPW/PARKS	FY20 FERTILIZER
\$ 11,599.16	\$ 50.45	\$ 536.37	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 24,690.65	\$14,600.00

The field account balance does not reflect a \$1,600 and there are outstanding Harrell's invoices that need to be processed for payment (by the DPW).

Community Input - none

Outstanding Permit Fees/Insurance Certificates/Facility Requests

The school will be using the fields for soccer. WB Youth Soccer has cancelled their fall season.

Jim has approved the following permits:

- Artecas Karate Academy – town common (gazebo side) / August 8 (Sat) - 10:30am to 1:00pm
- Little Gym of WB – Woodland / Fri 9am to 1pm & Sat 8am to 1pm - Sep 11 to Nov 21
- Worcester Union Athletics – Girls' softball field / M-TH 4-7:30pm - Sep 7 to Oct 24
- NE Knights – HS Baseball field / 8am to 2pm - Sep 27, Oct 3, 10, 11, 12, & 18 for games.

Parks Facilities/Maintenance Items

Update information provided from DPW Director Gary Kellaher via email.

- Swing gate & Knox lock – *gate is currently being worked on.*
- Sr. Baseball field irrigation – *Gary reported that it was all set.* Steve noted that the additional zones have not been installed (have had material for a couple of years).
- Fence/netting maintenance – *on going.* Steve stated that it is not getting done. Steve will look into what needs to be done at Woodland (fence and netting). Fence at softball field has been damaged by a fallen tree.
- A&B fields/pitchers' mounds & base paths – *baselines have been trap raked and more material will be put down next week.* Jim noted that the baselines are not longer straight and that it should probably be addressed now (instead of waiting until spring). The mounds still need to be rebuilt and home-plate at the softball field needs to be fixed (has been pulled up).
- Pride Park rides – 2 of the rides still need to be repaired – *will be done soon.*
- Pride Park mulch – *has been purchased and will be spread, once the rides are repaired.* Steve noted that the mulch needs to go on the smaller (younger) section and some can go on the school side.
- Pride Park Fence – repair has not been done.

- Trees/stumps – *contractor has been lined up for the tree removal (on Goodale).* Steve had sent an email to Gary, notifying him of some elm trees that are dead.
- Mixer infield – *is done.*
- Goodale irrigation system – *"A&B" timer has been repaired.*
- Fertilizer – *will be done this Friday (the 25th)*
- New employees – *one started this week, second one will start Oct. 1st.*
- Winterization of irrigation system – Steve will assist, to see that it is done properly.

New Business

The PFC chair has informed the board that one of the committee's members has requested that a swimming pool be investigated. Jim noted that the town surveys have had low numbers of responses, but a pool is a popular request. Discussion - the costs would need to be funded by the town, splash park would be less costly, there other projects that would take precedence over a pool (and are less expensive and more feasible), and the need for a brief survey with just pool questions. Topic has been tabled until more information is provided by the Town Administrator. Chris noted that there is a warrant article (meeting is next week) for \$30,000 to fund a Recreation Director and programs.

- Motion Originator: Steve Blake
- Motion Description: to support the warrant article for funding for a Recreation Director and recreation programs.
- Motion Seconded: Andrea Allen
- Motion Discussion: - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **All Approved**

Old Business

- PFC Projects/Mixer & Woodland - Mixer is the priority. PFC has submitted an application for a \$100,000 grant. The grant requires CPA funds to be used, an up-to-date Open Space plan and that is it be a parcel for just for parks use. Chris noted there is a warrant article to address the designated use of the parcel.
 - Motion Originator: Steve Blake
 - Motion Description: to support the warrant article authorizing the transfer of care & custody of the Mixer field to the Parks Commission and recreation programs.
 - Motion Seconded: Paul Scally
 - Motion Discussion: - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **All Approved**
- Trees at Pride Park – nothing has been done. Over-seeding has occurred at the Sr. Center, which is going to make it difficult to move the trees.
- Sr. Baseball field dugouts – vocational school in Leominster was going to look at, but schools closed due to the pandemic. Steve to reach out to them again.
- AP field concession stand – Steve is working on.
- Seeder – demo was done, but funding request is not being put on the fall warrant.
- Lining machine – cost is approximately \$2,100. A \$500 grant has been approved.
 - Motion Originator: Steve Blake
 - Motion Description: to purchase a lining machine, utilizing DPW funds for the remaining balance (after the \$500 grant money).
 - Motion Seconded: Paul Scally
 - Motion Discussion: - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **All Approved**

Members Requests

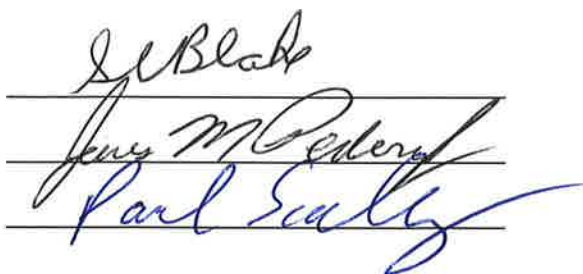
- Paul - happy to see that Mixer is being addressed and the "A&B" mounds will be rebuilt.
- Jim - the trees at Woodland are too close to the fence, can't get the mower between the fence and the tree. Steve stated that there is a smaller mower that can be used.

Committee Updates/PFC, Open Space

- Parks Facility Committee - the project proposed by the PFC has an estimated cost of \$600,000, which Steve feels is over-kill and is concerned that the board has not voted on the plan, yet the PFC is already going to the CPC for funding. Steve has suggested utilizing local contractors to bring the field back to what was there, which would be less costly. He is concerned that a design will cost money whether it is used or not and would like to vote as the whether to support spending money on the design.
 - Motion Originator: Paul Scally
 - Motion Description: to endorse the request being sent to the CPC for CPA funds (\$651,064.31), to be utilized for the Mixer field.
 - Motion Seconded: Andrea Allen
 - Motion Discussion:
 - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **Approved - 3 yes & 1 no (Steve Blake)**
- Open Space Committee - no update

Next Meetings: did not schedule, but are hoping to hold next meeting in person

- Motion Originator: Steve Blake
- Motion Description: Adjourn / 7:25
- Motion Seconded: Andrea Allen
- Motion Discussion: - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **All Approved**



DATE: 5/3/22