

WEST BOYLSTON BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSIONERS

March 9, 2021 7:00 PM (zoom meeting)

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

Guests: Jason Vitko, Erin Palumbo, Jon Jalbert (Ultiplay), Bob Caron, Jennifer Caron, Rachel Brown, Patrick Brown, Annelle Benson, John Benson

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: Gary Flynn
- Motion Description: Approve January 11, 2021 minutes
- Motion Seconded: Steve Blake
- Motion Discussion: - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **All Approved**

Treasurer's Report

FIELD revolving	RECREATION revolving	PRIDE PARK revolving	RECREATION appropriation	PRIDE PARK FY2021	DPW/PARKS FY2021	FERTILIZER FY2021
\$14,808.61	\$50.45	\$536.37	\$30,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,615.47	\$9,360.58

There has been \$1,095.00 donated to the recreation programs in memory of Pam Bjorklund (not reflected in the balance above).

Community Input - none

Outstanding Permit Fees/Insurance Certificates/Facility Requests

WB Women's Softball has submitted their request for use of "A&B" fields and the softball field on Wednesday evenings 6-7:30 / June, July and August.

- Motion Originator: Steve Blake
- Motion Description: Approve WB Women's Softball's request as submitted.
- Motion Seconded: Gary Flynn
- Motion Discussion: - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **All Approved**

The Little Gym of WB has requested use of "green space" Fri (Woodland), Sat(AP field) & Sun (Woodland) 8:00-12 noon / May 1 to Sept 1.

- Motion Originator: Steve Blake
- Motion Description: Approve Little Gym's request as submitted.
- Motion Seconded: Paul Scally
- Motion Discussion: - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **All Approved**

WB Youth Soccer has submitted their request for use of Woodland Goodale fields for their spring program, April 1 – June 26.

- Motion Originator: Steve Blake
- Motion Description: Approve WB Youth Soccer's request as submitted.
- Motion Seconded: Paul Scally
- Motion Discussion: - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **All Approved**

Reviewed the modifications to Little League field usage times. Jim informed them that the practice field is not available until 6:00 on weekdays (thru April 23rd).

Steve will get quotes for port-a-toilets, to discuss at the April meeting.

Parks Facilities/Maintenance Items

- Swing gate & Knox lock – Fire Dept is working on.
- Sr. Baseball field irrigation – pending.
- Fence/netting maintenance – on going.
- A&B fields/pitchers' mounds & base paths – to be done in the spring.
- Home plate and bases at all fields – to be addressed in the spring.
- Infield maintenance – to be done in the spring.
- Irrigation system repairs – Zone at A & B – work to be done in the spring.
- Golf cart batteries & registration – *still push back regarding the registration.*
- New lawn mower – *warrant article (also for an aerator)*
- Soccer goals – *Steve has asked the DPW/Parks to fix the wheels.*
- additional items for DPW/Parks
 - *Jim has reviewed priorities with the DPW Director*
 - *Steve reported that the lights are all set at the AP field and the courts. They will be installing a timer on the court lights.*
 - *Steve – the Light Department has fixed the netting at Woodland.*

New Business

- Pride Park – Jim explained that Pride Park does not meet current ADA compliance and that a request has come in that it be addressed.
 - Motion Originator: Paul Scally
 - Motion Description: to bring Pride Park to full ADA compliance.
 - Motion Seconded: Steve Blake
 - Motion Discussion: Jim explained that the board's approval of the motion would get the project started. Jim noted that design discussions would come after the board's vote to proceed and asked that design not be talked about at this point. He also explained that the project is already be worked on by the Town Administrator, Building Inspector, and DPW Superintendent. Jim is the School Committee's representative on the Parks Commission and he has volunteered to be the Park's Commission's representative to work with the group (see motion & vote under old business). Patrick and Rachel Brown spoke of the need to have the playground all inclusive, in addition to the ADA compliance. They expressed concern that they are being shut-out from being involved, that there are not stake holders from the disabled community and that it seems it is being done in a total vacuum. Rachel explained that baseline ADA compliance would not make the playground fully inclusive and that the three groups (town, parks and school) need to work together as one project. Rachel has been working with Ultiplay on a design that would be fully inclusive and accessible and feels that the plan should be considered. Rachel would like to have a seat at the table as a representative of the community. Discussed whether the motion should be amended with wording regarding full accessibility and more inclusivity, beyond the baseline ADA standards. Patrick Brown suggested amending the motion to include wheelchair accessible. He stated that in the current plan being put forth by the Town Administrator, the swings are not wheelchair accessible. Members of the community and Jon Jalbert (Ultiplay rep) were given the opportunity to speak and shared that they were in support of the Brown's request for a fully-inclusive plan, their plan being taken into consideration, and the need for a voice for the people with disabilities. Jim explained that part of the process is to apply for the CPA funds, apply for grants and the final vote will be a town meeting. If not approved at town meeting, the process will have to start over again. The job of the sub-committee is to develop a plan that is feasible and accommodates the needs that are being asked of and one that the people will approve.
 - Motion Originator: Steve Blake
 - Motion Description: to bring Pride Park to ADA compliance and wheelchair accessible.
 - Motion Seconded: Gary Flynn
 - Motion Discussion: - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **All Approved**

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- Little League requests – add black or blue screens behind home plate, for safety. Would like to install small speaker in front of the snack shack. Potentially have sponsor banners along the black fence on the Townsend Field. Steve has reviewed the deed and cannot find any wording to prohibit doing so.
 - Motion Originator: Steve Blake
 - Motion Description: to approve Little League's request for screens, use of sound system and the sponsor signs.
 - Motion Seconded: Paul Scally
 - Motion Discussion: - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **All Approved**

Old Business

- PFC Projects/Mixer & Woodland – Jim has a meeting scheduled for Monday with Pat Inderwish and the Town Administrator.
- Recreation Director – Jim contacted the final four applicants, informing them that the search process is being put on hold for now and will be discussed at the board's March meeting. This was due to the pandemic and the restrictions. The restrictions have been loosened since the last meeting.
 - Motion Originator: Paul Scally
 - Motion Description: to move forward with hiring of the recreation director.
 - Motion Seconded: Steve Blake
 - Motion Discussion: - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **All Approved**

Erin stated that she really appreciates that it is moving forward. Jim will work on putting together the meeting for the interviews. Paul and Andrea had put together some question, which will need to be expanded upon.

- Trees at Pride Park – should be part of the Pride Park plan.
 - Motion Originator: Paul Scally
 - Motion Description: to appoint Jim to be the representative from the Parks Commission for development of the Pride Park plans.
 - Motion Seconded: Gary Flynn
 - Motion Discussion: - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **All Approved**
- AP field concession stand – Paul is running into prevailing wage issues. He has not been able to find another sole proprietor who will quote.
- Sr. Baseball field dugouts – still need to find someone to do the work.


Committee Updates/PFC, Open Space


- Parks Facility Committee – no update.
- Open Space Committee – no update.
- CPC – no update

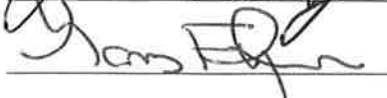
Members Requests - none


Next Meetings: April 6, 2021 7:00 via zoom and March 23, 2021 6:30 for interviews

- Motion Originator: Steve Blake
- Motion Description: Adjourn / 8:23
- Motion Seconded: Paul Scally
- Motion Discussion: - Motion Approvers/Disapprovers: **All Approved**









DATE: 7/13/21