



OBSERVER REPORT

Recreation and Parks Commission
Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:30 pm.
LWVM Observer - Kay Rieper

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Chip Osborne. All members were eventually present. The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Appearance

Jonathan Gladstone appeared before the Board with a proposal for his Eagle Scout project to replace the erosion walls at the Hamond Nature Center with the help of volunteers. The Board offered to pay for the necessary 6 x 6 inch timbers. It was also suggested that the stairs be replaced at the same time and possibly a railing added, and the granite posts be fixed or replaced. Peter will get an estimate from Carr for the stairs and possible railing, and have the timbers delivered to the site. The Board voted to endorse this proposal.

Pickle Ball questionnaire

Rather than sending a questionnaire to the neighbors abutting the Veteran's School pickle ball courts, it was decided to invite abutters to the meeting in April to see how many have noise complaints. This will ultimately be a School Department decision whether to provide noise abatement, and whether it will work.

SUP Container

The request for an added 10 x 10 foot container was discussed. There have been a lot of complaints about the painted container. It was suggested that the plain one be brought to the Riverhead side and the painted one kept on the other side of the street, and that the new one be put on the Causeway side of the larger plain container. The Board could not come to an agreement about approving the new container so it was tabled until the next meeting.

Tree Committee

Possible uses for money from Tree Committee grants and donations include a major renovation of Gatchell's Green and replacing the recognition plaque at Chandler Hovey. The Board approved three motions which will direct the Finance Committee to create a donation account and appropriate \$5000 to build a website to promote the tree donation fund.

Rink Committee

Their proposal is to build a 200 foot rink at Eveleth or Reynolds playground at a cost of \$8 million. The Reynolds proposal would put the zamboni, warmup building on the current softball outfield. The Board will just wait for the final recommendation, and the final decision will probably wait until a full Selectmen Board is in place.

Memorial Benches

A moratorium on new benches of two to three years was suggested as there is no more space, and there is a need for an updated permit request with a comprehensive maintenance plan. Right now \$15,000 is needed to refurbish old wooden benches and possibly correct the random nature of the benches at Chandler Hovey.

Facilities

The bike racks have been delivered and will be installed when the ground is thawed.

Complaints about litter will be addressed by a call for volunteers.

Recreation

Renewal for kayak permits is strong, and in May new permit requests will open up. Hobbs will open for programs after spring vacation.

Revolving Fund

This fund consists of revenues from recreation programs and rentals, and some should be spent before spring revenues start coming in, Chip presented various ideas for spending these funds which will be further considered at the next meeting. They include a new shed and other upgrades at the beach; a new carpet and scoreboard at Gatchell's which would be split evenly with baseball, and a re-do of the bathrooms; a dedicated website for the Department with drone footage of the parks and athletic facilities; a new sign for the Community Center; further upgrades to the Stramski building and lines for the parking lot; and railing replacement at Crocker Park.