



OBSERVER REPORT

Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 2020 7 p.m.
Community Center Dining Room
LWVM Observer Kay Rieper

All members were present.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Derek Norcross. The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Appearances

Pal Bickford presented the proposed website for the donation of landscaping to various Rec and Park properties. This consisted of three currently proposed projects at the Community Center, Chandler Hovey Park and Gatchell's Green, and how much money has been raised. The website includes ways for people to donate. Questions included who will maintain the landscapes (where will the money come from) and also the possibility of memorial plaques at some of the sites. The need now is to publicize the projects and the website.

Rick Smyers presented detailed plans for the bicycle park at the corner of Beacon and Green Streets which was approved at Town Meeting. The Commission needs to do a walk through with the Conservation Commission and the town engineer to point out conservation wetlands. It was suggested to get kids involved in the project. If they have ownership, they will take better care of it. The Commission has no resources to pick up trash so it will have to be "carry in carry out", or taken care of by the committee. It was suggested that the committee elect a Board of Directors to formally organize and sustain the project for the future. They have paired with the Rotary Club as their fun-raising agent. The Rec and Parks Department does have a donation account, or they could set up a nonprofit tax ID at the bank. The walk through was scheduled for 6 pm next Tuesday, May 17.

Parks

Peter James reported that the fertilizing is done. Most irrigation is up and running. The Commission approved 3 new hires and 1 rehire for summer employment at the beach. The Police Chief has requested that the Usher parking lot be closed and locked at 10 p.m. starting Memorial Day weekend. It will be unlocked by Rec and Park workers in the morning.

Recreation

Jaime reported that she is preparing for a busy summer. She is very proud of her staff. Hires and rehires were approved by the Board for playground, tennis, and sailing.

On Sunday, May 22 at 4:15 pm there will be a story time with the Fire Chief. This will occur once a month at different locations.

She hopes to partner with the Library and National Grand Bank for some events in the near future.

She still needs tennis instructors.

The next meeting will be next Tuesday, May 17 at 6 p.m. starting at the Green and Beacon Street property.