

Town of Lunenburg Park Commission

Karin Menard, Chair
Chris Sullivan, Vice Chair
Susanna Jewell, Secretary
Dave Passios, Member
Ana Lockwood, Member



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520 Chase Road
Lunenburg, MA 01462

Km approved 12/20/21

PARKS COMMISSION

May 26, 2021

Via Zoom

Minutes

-K. Menard called the meeting to order at 6pm. In attendance were Karin Menard, Susanna Jewell, Chris Sullivan, Dave Passios, and Ana Lockwood

-No board or public comments.

-Motion to rescind the original and approve February 12th minutes, C. Sullivan made motion, D. Passios seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Chris Sullivan - yes

Ana Lockwood - yes

Susanna Jewell - yes

Dave Passios - yes

Karin Menard - yes

-Kayla on maternity leave. Sam from DPW is taking her place. K. Menard will watch for emails. Town beach passes available online as are swim lessons. Update from R. Oliver, smoothing and leveling at McNally's is done and looks great. Mowing and trimming at parks, water service is turned on. New bleaches brought to field, R. Oliver is removing the old and setting up new ones. (#12 on Agenda) C. Sullivan motioned to accept the gifts, D. Passios seconded. The vote was unanimous.

-Reconfiguration of Commission. D. Passios will stay as Vice Chair for another year unless someone wants it. K. Menard will stay as Chair but would like help making sure things get done. C. Sullivan would like to help and learn the Vice Chair position. After some discussion, K. Menard motioned to appoint C. Sullivan in role of Vice Chair, D. Passios seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Chris Sullivan - yes

Ana Lockwood - yes

Susanna Jewell - yes

Dave Passios - yes

Karin Menard - yes

Motion made by A. Lockwood to elect K. Menard as Board chair, S. Jewell seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Chris Sullivan - yes

Ana Lockwood - yes

Susanna Jewell - yes

Dave Passios - yes

Karin Menard - yes

A. Lockwood added comments thanking K. Menard for all her hard work and accomplishments. S. Jewell will stay in the secretary position. Discussion about someone to do minutes is in the works. A. Lockwood volunteered doing minutes occasionally to help out.

Motion by C. Sullivan to put S. Jewell in position of secretary, K. Menard seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Chris Sullivan - yes

Ana Lockwood - yes

Susanna Jewell - yes

Dave Passios - yes

Karin Menard - yes

-Marshall Park parking issues. D. Passios mentioned he got a phone call complaint that cars were double parked lining both sides of street. Doesn't know what event or organization was the cause. He's monitoring games, counted 60 cars parked on appropriate side. There will be even more cars when park is renovated. K. Menard stated the parking flow needs to be improved. Consultant will have to look at. Make police aware of any illegal parking to rectify. Conflicting games increase parking and fills the area. Improving the access to two way side to Chestnut St. Discussion on different league's times and ways to solve the issues with parking and pedestrian traffic.

-Marshall Pond Discussion. A. Lockwood said the overall health of the pond has seem to decline due to possible over use of Fertilization and run off. The pond is covered with lilies. The perimeter of the pond is also over grown and the old light post close to the edge of the pond look like they will fall in. She talked to R. Oliver about the process to remove them. Discussion on whether or not to remove them since they are chemically treated and the pond eventually runs into the Mopus and Hickory Hills. S. Jewell and C. Sullivan commented on bringing some lights back to the area. S. Jewell would like to see a remediation plan for removal of invasive species.

A. Lockwood made a motion to ask the DPW to investigate ways to remove the light post. Seconded by C. Sullivan. The vote was unanimous.

Discussion of managing invasive species in the pond and around the park, getting a consultant or the chair of the Conservation Commission to help with grants for remediation and upkeep.

-Discussion of General Municipal Properties, 223 Pleasant St and 671 West St. They run under the Select Board but looking to move in other user groups. K. Menard stated that West St is not a good fit for the Parks Commission. Pleasant St is a 40 acre mostly open parcel. A. Lockwood added that the Commission needs large open spaces for the community to enjoy. C. Sullivan would like to pursue the use of the fields. S. Jewell would like to see walking trails not just organized sport fields.

A. Lockwood made motion to communicate to the open space committee that the parks commission is interested in having ownership of Pleasant St property. Seconded by C. Sullivan. The vote was unanimous.

More discussion on properties for future use.

-Dog policy at parks discussion. The question is could there be a requirement of leashing of dogs on perimeter of park since the town has no leash law. K. Menard went to the Town Manager who contacted Adam Costa the town attorney. Attorney Costa's response was "I do not see any immediate liability concerns associated with the park commissioners allowing leashed dogs on its properties but off leash dogs are a different story. Many off leash parks require a signing of a liability waiver and release before their use. Massachusetts imposes strict liability on dog owners for injuries their dogs cause so its wise that you've contacted our town insurer, they had no issue with leashed dogs being allowed on park properties. K. Menard suggested a policy that leashed dogs are allowed on properties under the care and control of the Parks Commission with the exception of maintained fields. Will hold to research wording.

-Marshall Park Planning and survey discussion. K. Menard, R. Oliver and Heather Lemieux will go over how the process will work and understand what direction to move in. C. Sullivan gave his report on the responses on the online survey. Some of the activities recommended by the public were softball, t ball, walking, show shoeing, biking, and area for those with special needs, public restrooms, splash pads, outdoor lighting, snack bar and others. Discussion about ADA compliant areas. D. Passios would like to add a discussion on replacing bathrooms or bringing in sewer lines for the next agenda. Discussion on getting started as money becomes available in July. K. Menard will have a discussion with Anthony

Caiozzo to finalize with them and give them a timeline of what the commission is thinking. The money has been approved as a capital item.

-Discussion on Maintenance of Marshal Park

-Other business. Chris got an email looking for info on soccer. He'll get an okay to go ahead with it.

-Next meeting is Wednesday June 30th in person at either DPW or Senior Center.

K. Menard motion to adjourn at 8:20, D. Passios seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Chris Sullivan - yes

Ana Lockwood - yes

Susanna Jewell - yes

Dave Passios - yes

Karin Menard - yes

Respectfully submitted

Dawn Pavone, minutes secretary