

HEATH PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Minutes, September 19, 2024 at 6:30pm via Zoom

In Attendance: Chair Michael Cucchiara, Shahid Jalil, Bob Dane, Ex-Officio Members: Pat McGahan, & Lyra Johnson;

Absent: Chelsea Jordan-Makely

Call to order at 6:51

Chair entertained a motion to approve meeting minutes of March 25, 2024, Bob moved, Shah seconded, all in favor.

Lyra led a discussion regarding cleanup and woodchips for the playground at Jacobs Road Municipal Center (JRMC). There is \$800 available from the Heath PTP administered by Mary Sumner. The work of cleanup and spreading is to be done by volunteers in coordination with Tim Lively who would purchase the chips when volunteers were available. Chair entertained a motion to request if the wood chips can be purchased through the Heath PTP funds. Bob moved, Shah seconded, all in favor.

Jacobs Road Municipal Center Initiatives led by Pat McGahan

1. Indoor pickleball court – Pat presented a proposal to request \$535 in funding for approval from the Select Board for an indoor pickle ball court at JRMC Chair entertained a motion to request \$535 to use on a JRMC Pickle Ball project. Bob moved, Shah seconded, all in favor.
2. Dog poop bag dispenser – There was a request from a resident for the installation of a dispenser at JRMC similar to what is in Heath center. Lyra stated that many people bring their dogs to walk there. Chair entertained a motion to approve the installation if the cost did not exceed \$250. Bob moved, Shah seconded, all in favor.
3. Pickup basketball times – there was a discussion about scheduled pickup basketball time(s) in the JRMC gym, logistics and times to be determined through the Building Use Committee. The initiative was supported unanimously.

Heath Fair 5k Road Race Subcommittee Discussion

Shah requested approval to form a committee to include Sue Draxler, Chelsea, and to seek other persons to help support the 5k race.

Chair entertained a motion to form a Heath Fair 5k Race Subcommittee. Bob moved, Shah seconded, all in favor.

Consortium Grant Updates:

\$50k award from the Woodlands Partnership on Northwest Massachusetts for the [Highlands Regional Trail – Route and Landowner Agreements](#) to create a regional trail to link Shelburne across Heath and Rowe to the Mohawk Trail State Forest.

A permanent Vincent Road easement was acquired to connect Heath to Rowe Town Forest.

Current need: access from Burnt Hill- (Trowbridge land) to Howland Foundation property for center access. Checking with owner of former Dickinson land.

Consortium Grant #3: Highlands Trail Phase II FLT Project

Much like Consortium Grant #2 – to seek more funds for easements/licenses

Discussion of Town MWTP Grant: \$25k

Grant for 3 Kiosks – proposed locations: (1) Town Center, (2) HO Cook Forest, (3) JRMC
There may be funding available to install a bike pump (fixed on cement) and repair kit.
It was noted that HO Cook forest has no signage.

New P&R Board member suggestion to fill vacancy

Need to fill Jenna Day slot. Pat and Lyra were mentioned, but both preferred their Ex-officio status. Bob Dane recommended Don LeBreux. Don needs to send a letter indicating interest to the Select Board.

Other Business Not Anticipated at least 48 hours in advance of meeting.

- Shah is writing a grant to create workshops at JRMC and/or Community Hall
- Next meeting – Oct 24 at 6:30 to 7:30. Will possibly have a Franklin Land Trust representative to speak at the meeting.
- Need Select Board assistance to urge Town Counsel to review easements sent by Mike.

7:20 p.m. On a motion by Bob Dane, seconded by Shahid Jalil, the Parks and Recreation Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McGahan

10/24/2024