

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. It was noted that the Parks and Recreation Committee minutes have been subpoenaed regarding a lawsuit related to the Vincent Road trail easement.

Lyra led a discussion regarding cleanup and woodchips for the playground at Jacobs Road Municipal Center (JRMCMC). There is \$800 available from the Heath PTP and Tim Lively knows source for certain chips for playgrounds. The work of cleanup and spreading is to be done by volunteers. Chair entertained a motion to request the Heath PTP to make a donation to the Parks & Recreation Committee to acquire the woodchips. 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 JRMCMC. Chair entertained a motion to request \$535 from the existing Parks & Recreation Committee stabilization account to use on a JRMCMC 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 JRMCMC 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 JRMCMC gym, logistics and times to be determined through the Building Use Committee, with the approval of Select Board. 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. This is Adams Williams land which is not affected by the lawsuit.

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 Brewer. 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.

Adjourned at 7:20