



Park and Recreation Commission  
Town Hall, 126 Main St.  
Ware, Massachusetts 01082-1386

## Minutes of the Park Commission Meeting

Date: March 1, 2021  
Place: Virtual via ZOOM  
Present: Bill Imbier, Kim Swarts, John Carroll, John Piechota, Stuart Beckley

The meeting commenced at 6:30 pm.

### Field Scheduling

Since teams have not yet been formed, John will not be taking field scheduling requests. Girls' Softball will be posting for sign ups on-line and maybe use the newspaper to advertise. She will know more after her meeting. Ware Baseball has no sign ups yet, but plans to have T-ball, 7 to 9 year olds and 10 – 12 year olds. Field Scheduling will be revisited next month. COVID guides lines will continue to be practiced. It was agreed that the kids need to get back to sports and be involved. There was a question about registration fees and it was suggested not to collect fees until later to be sure there will be a season. If during mid-season there is a spike in COVID, maybe hold off for a couple of weeks. There was a question regarding providing masks. Stuart said it could be done.

### Rules and Regulations

Copies need to be provided and then discussed at an in-person meeting.

### Dog Park Contractor

There has been nothing new from the contractor. The bench is still out and not fixed. Hopefully it will be returned by the spring. Also the water issue is not fixed. Some people are not picking up after their dogs. A grant is going to be awarded for a mural to be placed on the back fence. The Commissioners would like to be able to see what is being planned.

### Updates from John Piechota

#### Park Grant

The retaining wall and drainage system will need an engineering design plan. John Lemaitre will try to get out to see if he could do the project. He is knowledgeable with this kind of work. The plan is to get the job done by next winter.

#### Dog Attack

A woman filed a report to animal control regarding two dogs that attacked her dog. Her dog required a Veterinarian. These same dogs, although on a restraint, have attacked other dogs before and she continues to jog in the Park with her dogs. There was continued discussion. John advised that the Park cannot enforce a trespass order. It has to come from the Animal Control Officer. John has attempted to contact the Officer but has not gotten a response. It

was suggested that the dog owner is sent a registered letter that informs her that she is not permitted on any Park properties until she attends a Park meeting to discuss and resolve her case. All agreed that a letter should be prepared. In addition, the Commissioners would like to have the Animal Control Officer attend a Park Commission meeting to discuss this current issue and issues that may come up with the Dog Park. John Carroll will contact the Police Department for the proper forms and how to proceed with the trespass order.

#### Main Street Lighting Project

Stuart has gotten a fourth set of quotes for the lights, and the prices are coming down. The plan is to include Veterans Park lights to match the street lights. There is a plan to illuminate the rear part of Veterans Park with lower wattage at night. There was also a suggestion to put lights at the Dog Park, but John felt that lighting the Dog Park would only bring trouble.

#### Mary Lane Hospital Property

John has received many calls about making the Mary Lane property into green space and give it to the Park Department. Other suggestions were moving the Town Pool to the area. John felt the Commission should be aware of these thoughts, although it's something that won't happen for quite a while.

#### Monroe Street Property

There has been some discussion regarding what to do with the old gas lot. Some suggestions were:

- Parking lot of 80 spaces.
- Place for a gazebo and benches
- Reduce the number of parking space by half and add a splash pad.
- Make an open space at the end and have a path to the fields.

It was discussed that an area for children would require clean up and testing by the EPA. The Commissioners agreed they would rather concentrate on the basketball court and much needed parking space.

John mentioned that in order to host baseball tournaments; parking, home run fencing on right and left fields and better bleachers are needed.

John will move forward with plans to open the pool. Bill suggested the need to start to look for guards. Many will need to be recertified for which can be arranged at the pool and the Town would pay the bill.

There begin no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Next meeting will be April 5<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Town Hall

Nancy Dunn, Secretary