



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

Minutes of the Park Commission Special Meeting

Date: May 11, 2021
Place: ZOOM
Present: Bill Imbler, Kim Swarts, John Carrol, John Piechota, Stuart Beckley, Members of the Selectmen's Board

The meeting commenced at 6:30 pm.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the event that occurred in Grenville Park. A 15 year old and an 11 year old assaulted a 27 year old autistic man. The two youths were arrested. The incident was watched by a crowd of other youths, who have been cooperative with the Police, however they also face charges. The assault on Shiloh resulted in a broken collar bone and mental trauma. A baseball coach at the first diamond intervened and the Police arrived.

The discussion continued and stressed the need to make a strong statement and do something so that this kind of thing does not happen again. It was decided that a trespass order to bar the youths from being in any facility under the jurisdiction of the Park Department should be issued. It was suggested that the trespass order be issued for life. However, it may only be issued in one year increments. The Police will have the order on file. It is possible that in 10 years, the youths may request to be reinstated at some future time.

After continued discussion it was suggested that the trespass order be issued for now and wait a couple of months as more information comes and then revisit the issue. It could then be decided to issue the trespass order for life.

In addition, there was a discussion that law abiding citizens need to feel safe in the Park. The school has counselors to talk to kids regarding this type of situation and the need to get the schools involved regarding no bullying. This is a need for more cameras and Police presence.

Bill Imbler: Motion to give the two individuals involved in the assault a no trespassing order for life which will include all areas under the jurisdiction of the Park Department

Kim Swarts: Second
A vote was taken and all were in favor.

It was also suggested to have signs placed at the Park with signs stating "no weapons", "no fighting" similar to what is at the Quabbin.

There was another suggestion to get Volunteers to keep an eye on thing going on at each park

and field.

Bill Imbier asked that the Park Commission be notified as soon as the other kids are identified and issue a one year no trespass order as well. John Piechota suggested to see how much cooperation is gotten from them and then decide to give a no trespass order. John Piechota will stay in touch with the Police.

There was also a mention that crowds gather to watch skate boarders and basketball. John Carroll suggested to take down the basketball nets for maybe 30 to 60 days to avoid crowd gathering. Bill Imbier said to keep nets down for 30 days and then reassess returning the basketball hoops. If not better then continue to keep them down. If things improve, than can be put back up.

John Piechota, Stuart Beckley and the Police Chief have spoken to Shiloh's family to support them and advise that the incident will not "be swept under the rug".

John Morrin from the Selectmen's Board suggested to have the Police Chief come to the Selectmen's meeting to talk about what the Park Commission is doing to keep the Park safe. He also suggested to invite Shiloh to the meeting as well.

The meeting continued with other suggestions:

- Frequent patrols
- Cameras
- Volunteer security guard/park ranger
- Ask people to keep alert and say something

Stuart Beckley then read his proposed message which will be in the Ware River News, TV Station, sent to Channel 40, Channel 22. Kim suggested to give the message to Officer Bonnayer to give to the students. Bill Imbier suggested that Stuart read as a phone message.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Nancy Dunn, Secretary