



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

Minutes of the Park Commission Meeting

Date: January 4, 2021
Place: Virtual via ZOOM
Present: Bill Imbier, Kim Swarts, John Carroll, John Piechota
Excused: Kim Swarts
Guests: John Morrin

The meeting commenced at 6:33 pm.

Holiday Flair

The event was a huge success. John P received a lot of very good feedback. All Commissioners thought it should be repeated next year and maybe for two or three days. John Carroll suggested that there should be a counter next year to determine how many people or cars attended. Nancy will prepare a thank you letter to the event leader.

Ware Community Center

Their book event went smoothly. There was no vandalism of the books/pages and many stopped by to read during the week

Cell Phone

Although John P is okay with using his private cell phone, the Commissioners still feel that he should be able to have a Town owned phone. There was some discussion.

John Carroll: Motion to provide John Piechota with a \$50 stipend in addition to the reimbursement from the Town. The stipend to be taken from the Part Trust Account.

Bill Imbier: Second
All were in favor.

Park Grant

There was a discussion regarding going forward with the project which will include: a retaining wall, drainage behind the wall, fencing on top for safety, handicap access and picnic table. If there is any left over money, it can be used to take care of drainage on the fields. There was a discussion regarding different engineers to do the project. John P will reach out to John LaMatte. The Park will cover needed money for the design plan and take it from the Park Trust fund.

Rules and Regulations

Copies of what is available will be distributed to the Commissioners.

Dog Park Contractor

John P reported that he has had some push back from the "Friends of the Dog Park" regarding his closing of the Dog Park in inclement weather. Frozen water in the front of the gate is unsafe. He closes the Park in order to plow in front of the main gate. He does not plow the inside. There is concern that if the "Friends" take care of shoveling the inside themselves and it is not done well, there could be a safety and Town liability issues. The Commissioners decided that John P will use determine and control when the Park is open during heavy snow storms. Bill Imbier suggested that a representative of the "Friends of the Dog Park" attend of the Park meetings to discuss the issue.

There are still some issues to be resolved: erosion; re-seeding; tree loss; stone washed out. The Contractor did remove the damaged benches from the site.

Someone has willing to donate dog ramps to the Park. There was question of any liability or safety for the dogs.

John Carroll: Motion to accept the dog ramps from the donor with the clause that if they are not suitable, they will be returned.

Bill Imbier: Second
All were in favor.

Stone Marker

Stone is done and looks nice. It will be there for a long time.

John Morrin

John Morrin attended the meeting to advise the Commissioners that he is planning to have a Carnival at Memorial Field similar to the St. Mary's Carnival. It would include rides and a beer garden. There was a discussion regarding liquor license, who would run the event and how to handle the money. John will work with Stuart and keep the Commissioners up to date.

Bill Imbier: Motion to support John Morrin's plan to have a Carnival at Memorial Field sometime in the Fall of 2022.

John Carroll: Second
All were in favor.

John P asked John Morrin about pedestrian lighting on Main Street and if lighting for Veteran's Park could be included in order for all lights to be uniform. Stuart is looking into designs.

Updates from John Piechota

He and crew will use the winter months to do tree work along with the DPW if the bucket truck is needed.

Lots of brush work being picked up.

Equipment is in good shape. However there is older discarded equipment that he will rehabilitate if possible and get rid of what is no longer needed or used.

The dump truck is on a warrant for the January 19th Town Meeting.

Workshop 13 is requesting and trying again to hold the event that was canceled due to COVID. The Commissioners will support the event, but will need more information and dates.

There begin no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next meeting will be January February 1, 2021 via ZOOM.

Nancy Dunn, Secretary