

**Haddam Park & Recreation Commission
Video Conference Regular Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, October 08, 2020
7:30 PM
~Via Chairman's Zoom account~
Unapproved MINUTES**

In attendance: Chairman Jason Lonergan, Vice Chairman Jennifer O'Neal, and Commissioner Daniel Belanger, and Commissioner David Law

Not in attendance: Commissioner Peter Christopher

Staff in attendance: Barbara Galloway, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

After multiple failed attempts to join the GoToMeeting site, Chairman Lonergan opted to call the Meeting to order using his personal Zoom account at 7:57 PM.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the September 10, 2020 Video Conference Regular Meeting

The recording clerk pointed out that there are several grammatical corrections that need to be made. **Commissioner Law made the Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O'Neal to approve the September 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes with the suggested amendments. The Motion was approved unanimously.**

3. General Review of current budget financial reports (09/2020)

The commissioners reviewed the September financial reports emailed to them earlier, inclusive of "Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures, July 2020 to June 2021, General Fund" dated 10/05/2020 and "Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures, July 2020 to June 2021, Capital Non-Recurring" dated 10/05/2020. Chairman Lonergan told the commissioners that most of the items reflected on the General Fund report involved Spring cleanup work payments and the rental of the port-o-lets. The other fees shown are for the scheduled contracted work. Chairman Lonergan noted that there is still funding in the Capital Non-Recurring Fence Relocation line to make repairs and do some additional needed work. He noted that Commissioner Christopher is in the process of obtaining a quote from Fence World to move the existing entry gate to the outfield and to replace the gate with a larger access gate at the Brickyard field and that he had had a response from the company, but that the work has not yet been scheduled. Commissioner Christopher has also asked for an estimate for netting installation above a section of fencing at the Brickyard field that would probably be completed in the Spring. Chairman Lonergan stated that there is funding available in the budget to complete this work. He planned to communicate with Commissioner Christopher about this project's status in the near future.

4. Unfinished Business

A. *Great Hills Fields*

- i. Walking Path at Great Hills - status: needed services
Chairman Lonergan reported that no work has been done on the walking paths for either the tree trimming or resurfacing with stones.

- ii. Landscaping - status of any further needed work
Chairman Lonergan noted that he must contact Langer about his earlier request for the trimming back of the trees that have overgrown the soccer fields, the parking lot, and the walkway.
- iii. Eagle Scout Great Hills Kiosk Project - status
Chairman Lonergan reported that Commissioner Christopher had spoken with Matt Pray and that Matt now has received the approvals from all involved parties to construct the kiosk at Great Hills. He will start the work soon with colder weather coming and less activity at the site. Commissioner Law noted Matt had told the commissioners before that his work had to be done by his eighteenth birthday in early January since on that date he will be required to “retire” from the Boy Scouts of America with which he is working to earn his Eagle Scout status.
- iv. Signage - status of planned additional signs re: trash and dogs
At this point in the season, Chairman Lonergan said he may order temporary signs re: Covid-19 restrictions, handling of trash, and banning dogs from the fields to be posted at the site. He may wait to have more permanent signs made and installed (as needed) in the early Spring.
- v. Vice Chairman O’Neal had emailed everyone a photo and description of damage that had been caused by the wind/rainstorm on the previous Tuesday night at Great Hills; she noted that since that time, additional damage was done by another falling tree. The commissioners discussed the incurred damage including the fence and batting practice cage and a picnic table that were hit and broken in/near south field. It was noted that another tree had fallen behind the concession building a week or so earlier and caused damage to at least one picnic table. Chairman Lonergan said that he will talk with Commissioner Christopher about contacting Fence World to have them look at the new repair work needed there. Chairman Lonergan also noted that he will contact the Town Public Works office to ask about their availability to remove the fallen trees from the site.

B. Brickyard Field

- i. Status of fence repair (tree limb damage) and gates replacement
Chairman Lonergan said that Commissioner Christopher is waiting for Fence World to do the previously agreed upon fence repair and gate adjustments at the Brickyard field. He is contemplating having the company wait until Spring to complete this work.
- ii. Netting option consideration status - parking lot flyball issues
As noted above in the financial reports section, Commissioner Christopher is in the process of obtaining an estimate for the addition of netting above a portion of the fence at that field.
- iii. Signage - status of additional signs re: trash and dogs
As stated in the Great Hills report, at this point in the season, Chairman Lonergan may order temporary signs re: Covid-19 restrictions, handling of trash, and banning dogs from the fields to be placed at the site. He may also wait to have permanent signs made (as needed) and installed in the early Spring.

C. Haddam Elementary School property

- i. Signage - status of planned additional signs re: trash and dogs
No action will be taken on signs for this property for the near future.
- ii. Potential Reuse of Existing Benches
Chairman Lonergan told the commissioners he still plans to contact the Town about having the benches in the HES playground area moved to the Great Hills and/or Cove properties.
- iii. The commissioners discussed the report that the HES gym may be been rented out for basketball and soccer practice. Also, Commissioner Law noted that the local theatre group is currently renting several rooms at HES.

D. Higganum Center/Cove Activities – any updates

- i. Signage
The commission must speak with the Town about whose responsibility it would be to add signs addressing trash control and banning dogs to the Cove property.
- ii. Potential Installation of Trash Cans
The commissioners were unsure of the wisdom of placing trash cans at the site. This topic also must be discussed with the Town.
- iii. Bike Racks
Vice Chairman O'Neal informed the group that she had investigated pricing for bike racks in the Cove area. She noted that the racks come in many colors, sizes, and models. She noted that the cost of each rack is not prohibitive, but the racks must be installed with concrete footings to secure them to the ground. Several additional questions need answers, including whether or not the racks installation can/should be planned in a way to allow the racks' removal and storage during the winter months. The commissioners agreed that the information about racks styles should be shared with the Town for its review prior to considering ordering them.

5. New Business

A. Further Discussion/Selection of commission 2020-2021 Capital Plan projects to address this year

Chairman Lonergan reminded the commissioners that there is funding set side already in the Capital Plan as seed money for both a basketball court and a pavilion at the Great Hills site. These projects had at an earlier meeting been tabled for later attention. Chairman Lonergan believes that there is not enough space on the upper level of the Great Hills site for a full-sized/regulation basketball court; he had also mentioned at an earlier meeting that he believes that the basketball court would serve the public better if it was installed closer to the center of town in Higganum where it would be more visible and safer to use. Chairman Lonergan said he had given thought to refurbishing the courts at the HES site, but this could not currently be further considered until more concrete decisions have been made regarding future uses of the HES property.

Chairman Lonergan also informed the commissioners that he is considering approaching School District 17 representatives to discuss the idea of creating

a basketball court in the parking lot at the high school near the bus parking and he described for the commissioners the area that he has in mind for a potential feasible and usable location. He said he had at one time talked casually with a RSD 17 representative, who expressed concern that a portion of the parking lot would be lost with the introduction of this new usage; however, Chairman Lonergan explained that his thought is to measure out the site for a full size court and install basketball rings/hoops and “floor” lines, but only allow use of the space for basketball during non-school hours.

Chairman Lonergan suggested that the other commissioners give these ideas some thought and inform him of any questions/concerns they have. If they are in agreement with his idea, he will contact the school district representative again and further discuss the idea. Several of the commissioners suggested other sites for possible basketball court placements/refurbishments including the courts on the Burr School property, on other open areas on the high school property, and indoor or outdoor courts to be constructed at older buildings in town that are now being made available for recreational/arts activities.

There was a very brief discussion of options for building the one planned pavilion at Great Hills using seed funds already accrued within the Capital Plan and/or one or two potential smaller pavilions at recreational sites in other areas of town that the commissioners had discussed at an earlier meeting. This topic was again tabled to a later meeting.

- B. Any new ideas for the Commission ongoing list of parks/recreation sites*
No new recreational ideas were introduced or discussed at this meeting.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence presented or reviewed at this Meeting.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Law made the Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O’Neal to adjourn the Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara D Galloway
Recording Clerk