

TOWN OF EPSOM
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Meeting House, 1596 Dover Road, Epsom, NH
February 8, 2024, 6:00 PM

PRESENT

Joe Wysocki, Chair
Cheryl Gilpatrick, Board of Selectmen Representative
Eric Reid, Vice Chair
Shauna Fisher, Commissioner
Gary Perry, Commissioner
Mike Tisbert, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary – via telephone

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wysocki called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Election of Officers

MOTION: To nominate Joe Wysocki as Chair. Motion by Ms. Gilpatrick. Second by Mr. Reid. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To nominate Eric Reid as Vice Chair. Motion by Mr. Wysocki. Second by Ms. Gilpatrick. Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA REVIEW

Ms. Gilpatrick added review of the Park Application policy.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended. Motion by Ms. Gilpatrick. Second by Ms. Fisher. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting of November 9, 2023– The minutes were reviewed, and edits were made. **MOTION: To approve the minutes as amended. Motion by Mr. Perry. Second by Mr. Reid. Motion passed unanimously.**

Appointments

None.

New Business

Chair Wysocki stated the only invoice paid in December was for Best Septic for servicing the port-o-potties. He stated in 2023 they went over budget by about \$4,000 due to receiving the

Bartlett Tree invoice for removing the fallen pine tree, at the end of the year. The Board of Selectmen approved the expenditure for 2023.

Chair Wysocki stated he did not receive updated reserve balance information prior to this meeting but expects to have those for the March meeting.

The Commissioners discussed opening the park in March, but it will be weather-dependent. Mr. Perry stated the dumpster needs to be ordered shortly before the opening and he will follow up with Casella.

The Commissioners discussed water testing and Mr. Perry was asked where he usually takes the samples. Mr. Perry stated he takes it directly to the State of New Hampshire; copies of past test results are in the concession stand.

Chair Wysocki received a letter from Dan Schroth regarding the wall project; he stated he intends to let Mr. Schroth know that due to the expenses involved the Commission has decided they won't move forward with the project. It was noted there are other projects including work on the garage that will take priority at this time.

The Commissioners reviewed and discussed a list of projects for 2024. Chair Wysocki stated he was informed about a group of people swimming in the river during the winter months; he let them know the area is dangerous due to ice and currents; he also expressed concerns about first responders if there was an emergency. There was discussion about updating the policy regarding Short Falls as well as installing signs with a gate. The parking area is not maintained by the Town during the winter and the Commissioners would like to prevent the parking lot damage that is now occurring.

The Commissioners discussed the work that needs to be done to the garage.

Chair Wysocki stated he would like to do another tick treatment around the time of opening the park.

The Commissioners discussed options for gates and securing the park when it is closed.

Ms. Gilpatrick suggested making sure the website is updated to match the information on the signs and policies.

Mr. Reid will continue to conduct the playground inspections and reports. Ms. Fisher stated she is willing to take the training course to be the back-up.

The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the instructions for opening and closing the park.

The Commissioners discussed the request from the Epsom Bible Church to create a ballfield. Chair Wysocki stated they had discussed potentially cleaning up one of the fields for use by the softball league. It was noted the use would only be for weeknights and no weekend use. He confirmed there would be no added expenses to the Park budget; the church has indicated any

costs would be covered by them for the league including costs for striping, raking and general maintenance. Mr. Tisbert confirmed that is correct. He stated the season typically runs from March to October, weather dependent; games and practices are scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays. Mr. Tisbert stated the league consists of about 250 people with 14 teams and they utilize fields throughout various towns. Ms. Gilpatrick asked if there would be any roping off of the field during use. Mr. Tisbert stated everyone is considerate and softballs don't travel as far as a baseball. Ms. Gilpatrick stated it would be good to get the schedule as soon as possible for event scheduling.

MOTION: To allow the Epsom Bible Church to use the ballfield at Webster Park for the softball league. Motion by Ms. Gilpatrick. Second by Mr. Perry. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Fisher gave an overview of edits to the reservation application. She suggested they consider revising fees, particularly for use of the bathrooms because there are expenses to the Town associated with water and electricity usage. After discussion, it was agreed Ms. Fisher will develop a draft for fee changes to review and discuss at the next meeting.

There was extensive discussion about the policy regarding alcohol and events which require police detail. It was agreed to not allow alcohol and if anyone wants it the could request a waiver of that part of the ordinance.

The Commissioners discussed insurance coverage for volunteers working at the park. Ms. Gilpatrick will check into insurance coverage for the Commissioners.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary