

TOWN OF EPSOM
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Epsom Town Offices Meeting Room
June 9, 2022, 6:00PM

The Parks & Recreation Commission generally meets the second Tuesday of every month to discuss information pertaining to Webster Park and the public swimming area known as Short Falls. The meetings are open to the public and the Commission welcomes public comment at the end of the meeting. If you wish to be put on the agenda for a discussion item or would like to request an appointment to be heard by the Commission, please contact Megan at the Epsom Town Office at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting. All requests for reservations are also handled through the Epsom Town Office.

PRESENT

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

Also Present

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary – via telephone
Dan Schroth
Deb Katsirebas

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Perry called the meeting to order at 6:09PM.

AGENDA REVIEW

Ms. Gilpatrick added Mr. Schroth for discussion about the stone wall.

Chair Perry added Deb Katsirebas to discuss a walkway project a Girl Scout would like to do.

Ms. Gilpatrick made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Mr. Wysocki seconded the motion. Motion passed, 4-0-0.

Mr. Schroth stated since the last meeting, he starting looking for field stone but will also need some ledge in order to build, so he is trying to find a source for it. He stated he has found some in Deerfield but he will need to pay \$600 to the owner for the material; it can be moved for \$400 per load and will need four loads. Mr. Schroth stated he will need about \$5000 plus the 150-200 tons of ledge materials. He explained the wall is going to be big but needs to be in order to look proportionate alongside Route 28; he also presented samples of the rock and ledge for review by the Commissioners.

Ms. Katsirebas, stated a Girl Scout is looking to do their service project and they came up with the idea to enhance the walking trail at the Park, which was put in a few years ago, by adding fitness stations along the trail. She stated she talked with Mr. Burns who put the trail in and they are excited to draw people to the trails. Ms. Gilpatrick asked if the stations would be permanent.

Ms. Katsirebas stated it would be small AstroTurf in the ground with signs at various points along the trail, which suggests to do jumping jacks, pushups, etc. She stated there wouldn't be any safety concerns as there wouldn't be any equipment. Mr. Wysocki asked if this is something the Girl Scouts would ensure is maintained. Ms. Katsirebas stated they could discuss that but would plan to make sure it is as sustainable and low maintenance as possible. Ms. Gilpatrick noted there are a few walking groups that are using the trails now and suggested she reach out to see if there is any interest in sponsorship from a local business that has expressed interest in this sort of thing; she also suggested she come back with a more detailed plan. Ms. Katsirebas stated the troop will be having a meeting next Thursday, June 14 at 6:30 at the park if any Commissioners are interested in walking the trail and discussing ideas. Some of the Park Commission Members decided to set a time to meet them at the park to review the project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting of May 12, 2022 – Edits were made. **Ms. Gilpatrick made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Chair Perry seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

1) Budget Update

The Commissioners reviewed the budget; it was noted 22% had been expended to date.

Chair Perry stated he talked with the contractor who does the mowing at Short Falls and they have requested to do the mowing every seven to ten days; Chair Perry stated he would like see it done more often, but it will cost about \$500 more for the season. Mr. Wysocki stated that with the budget where it's at, they should be able to absorb the additional cost.

Chair Perry made a motion to accept the increase of \$500 for the mowing at Short Falls. Mr. Wysocki seconded the motion. Motion passed, 5-0-0.

2) Reservation Update – Cheryl/Gary

Ms. Gilpatrick distributed a copy of the event reservations spreadsheet for review. Mr. Wysocki noted that starting September 11, there is an opening in the schedule and suggested they may want to block out a week to go through to repair any damage and do checks, particularly after the car shows. The Commissioners agreed wait until early September to determine if they need to close the park for repairs and maintenance.

The Commissioners reviewed the event calendar and designations were made for which Commissioner would be responsible for opening the park at each event. Ms. Gilpatrick explained signup for events can be done through the Google document online and it will update automatically for others to see. Chair Perry noted often times the applicants are there before the reserved setup time; Ms. Gilpatrick suggested clarifying setup time on the applications and will work with Megan.

3) Playground Safety Check Update

Mr. Reid gave an update on his safety check of the playground and presented pictures for review by the Commissioners; he stated there is a very large crack at the top of one of the slides; the opposite side also has a crack. He stated they can sand the rough edges and they may be able to

repair one of the cracks with a resin. Mr. Reid stated there are a couple of spots on the metal that needs to be sanded and painted. Ms. Gilpatrick suggested submitting photo documentation of the unrepairable damage to the slide to the Town Office to see if an insurance claim can be made.

4) Security Cameras & Lights– Update

Ms. Gilpatrick stated there was recently major vandalism that was reported to the Police Department by Chair Perry; she stated the Police Department is very supportive of getting motion lights and cameras installed as soon as possible.

Mr. Reid looked into options for cameras. Ms. Gilpatrick reached out to the Town's security company, Northeast Security Agency, and was advised that cloud based cameras can be very expensive and it was suggested to utilize cameras that could possibly go to a Police Department tablet. Mr. Tisbert stated he has also looked into options, and they want to be sure the quality is good so they can see what's going on; it was suggested putting hardwired cameras as there is no wi-fi at the park. It was also suggested they will need to have cages or something to protect the cameras. Mr. Reid is going to look into getting solar motion lights.

Mr. Reid asked how far the Town property goes along the river at Short Falls. Chair Perry stated it goes over 100' and there is a stone marker near the shoreline.

5) Park Ordinances – No update.

6) Projects/Work Assignments:

- ***Fencing Status*** – Chair Perry stated he has been working on the wooden post and rail fence with about 16' completed. Chair Perry stated kids will be out of school soon, so he is going to get some work days scheduled.
- ***Basketball Court Fence*** – Ms. Gilpatrick suggested scheduling a day around the reservation schedule. It was noted that have all the materials. It was agreed to set July 16 to do the work and no reservations would be accepted for that day.
- ***Garage Work Status*** – Chair Perry stated he hasn't done any work on the garage lately as he's been working on other projects; he plans to get back to it this fall. There is a section of the roof that needs repair and some parts of the walls need to be rebuilt; the garage doors need to be brought down where they are supposed to be. Some of the siding needs to be replaced as well.
- ***Stone Wall*** – Mr. Reid stated he wants to be sure they all agree with what is built; he also discussed the timeline with Mr. Schroth and there will be a bit of work to get the stone and materials gathered. Ms. Gilpatrick noted she has a lot of flat granite at her house they can use. Mr. Reid stated if they can gather the ledge/shim materials, it will save about \$5000.
- ***Table/Chair Donation Update*** - Chair Perry stated he and Mr. Reid and Mr. Riel picked up the Mt. Washington tables and chairs, noting it ended up being over 100 chairs (4 chairs to each table). The Commissioners agreed to meet at the park to take a look at the tables/chairs and discuss where to place them. Chair Perry noted some will need some work and repairs, noting they are made of fiberglass and cast aluminum.

- ***Tree Planting Update*** – Chair Perry stated the trees are doing well after planting; he stated some were tied off to make sure they don't lean.
- ***Irrigation System for Trees*** – Chair Perry stated he is working on getting the irrigation pipe installed so they can put in an automatic waterer.
- Chair Perry stated he bought new flags to put up at the park.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary