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Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes from Monday May 23, 2022

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Members Present were: Mark Eccher, Kinjal Patel, Wayne Simarrian and Larry Pollard.

Ex Officio Members Present: Ryan Jette. Guests Present: Alan Earls

The meeting took place at the Recreation Department Office.

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Simarrian at 8:05 PM.

The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read.

♦ Fields and Playgrounds Updates

- a) The Beaver Expansion Project is underway. The Conservation Commission has approved the expansion project. A contractor Blue Diamond has begun rough grading the area to be used for expansion. The Expansion Project will include: A new playground for young children, A fitness course entitled "ELEVATE" that offers 12 fitness options for older children, A small grass area to serve as a practice/warm-up field, and a wall that will serve as a practice option for lacrosse (the wall was paid for with monies from the Fletcher Fund). A press box /storage facility will also be part of the Beaver Expansion Project. The plan is to use a container, formerly used for storage by the Recreation Department, as the foundation for the press box. \$55,000 from the Fletcher Fund has been allocated for the creation of the press box/storage facility. Connecting the press box to fiber optic cable is a future goal of this project. The connection will allow for broadcasting of events that take place at the Beaver Street facility.
- b) Ryan reported that work on a Master Plan for King Street Memorial park is underway. The following are improvements that the town is considering: site lighting for the parking areas and the roadways, new playground equipment with safety surfacing, a new concession stand and restrooms, additional parking spaces near the existing flag pole, four new pickleball courts, and a splash pad.
- c) Ryan reported that the town is working on a design for the rebuilding of the Nason Street Tot Lot. The Tot Lot has proven to be extremely popular with Franklin residents. The design will go before the CPC for possible assistance with funding the project. The plan is to totally rebuild the playground facility. New playground equipment with safety surfacing is the goal of the project. Total cost for the complete rebuild is estimated to be \$300,000. The town will use a \$34,000 credit from Gametime to help with funding the project. Gametime was the vendor that provided the playground equipment for the Delcarte playground.

- d) Ryan reported that he and Town Administrator Jamie Hellen are preparing a grant proposal to be submitted to the state that seeks \$200,000 to provide upgrades to the Fletcher Field playground.

♦ Recreation Programs/Updates

- a) Ryan reported that on June 6<sup>th</sup> 2022 there will be a formal opening ceremony for the Street Hockey Rink at Fletcher Field. Work on the rink was completed in 2020. However due to Covid concerns a ceremony marking its opening was never carried out. The rink was funded with funds from both the town \$200,000 and the Boston Bruins \$75,000. The ceremony will include a visit from the Bruins mascot, food and beverages. A flyer detailing the opening ceremony can be found on the Recreation Department's website.
- b) Ryan reported that recreation sponsored programs have been highly successful. Sales have been averaging \$75,000/month.
- c) Registration process for the summer programs has begun. The registrations to date for the summer camp program have exceeded expectations. Ryan reported that the new registration site that offers new services has been well received.

♦ Fletcher Fund

- a) Ryan reported that funds allocated to some of the youth sports programs have yet to be spent. He has encouraged the programs to complete the necessary expenditures in a timely way.

♦ New Business

- a) Chairman Simarrian was nominated and unanimously reelected to serve as the Recreation Committee's representative to the CPC.
- b) Ryan asked the Committee members to brainstorm and come up with any recreation needs that could possibly be funded with Community Preservation funds.

♦ Old Business

- a) The committee discussed a possible timeline for the dedication of the entrance way to the Beaver Street Park to Paul Socci and the new playground at Beaver Street Park to the Joseph Vendetti family. A fall ceremony for both dedications was proposed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 27th at 8:00 PM at the Recreation Office on Beaver Street.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Pollard