

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
November 16, 2022**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at the Municipal Building, 2nd Floor, Council Chambers, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, MA. Councilors present: Brian Chandler, Theodore Cormier-Leger, Cobi Frongillo (via Zoom), Melanie Hamblen, Glenn Jones, Thomas Mercer, Deborah Pellegrini, Patrick Sheridan. Councilors absent: Robert Dellorco. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney; Alecia Alleyne, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

**CALL TO ORDER:** ► Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Chair Mercer called for a moment of silence. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** ► Chair Mercer reviewed the following as posted on the agenda. A Note to Residents: All citizens are welcome to attend public board and committee meetings in person. Meetings are live-streamed by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. In an effort to maximize citizen engagement opportunities, citizens will be able to continue to participate remotely via phone or Zoom. He announced that this meeting is being recorded by Franklin TV; this meeting may be recorded by others. ► Chair Mercer stated that Councilor Frongillo is participating remotely in tonight's meeting, and Councilor Dellorco may be participating remotely in tonight's meeting; however, currently, he is not. As such, every vote will be a roll call vote as there is remote participation.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** ► Mr. Richard Ciccone, 185 Chestnut Street, thanked the Town Council and Chief of Police for the sidewalks and crosswalks that are all over town. He stated that he thinks it has made the streets safer and is a big gain for the community. ► Town Clerk Nancy Danello stated that she submitted her certified election results to the state and noted that everything ran smoothly. She stated that there was a total of 14,657 votes cast which is about 59 percent turnout. She thanked everyone for their support over these past months. She stated that they are now on to the next project which is revamping the vault; she thanked the Community Preservation Committee for funding this project. ► Mr. Colin Cass, 146 Longhill Road, congratulated Steve Sherlock for 15 years of sterling service to the town with his contribution of Franklin Matters.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** ► *October 19, 2022*. ► **MOTION to Approve** the October 19, 2022 meeting minutes by **Hamblen**. **SECOND** by **Cormier-Leger**. **No discussion**. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** **Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Sheridan-YES**. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1**.

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS:** ► **Becki Carloni - Franklin Fire Department**. ► Fire Chief James McLaughlin introduced Ms. Becki Carloni. He stated that Ms. Carloni is being recognized for her actions done off duty on November 5, 2022, at the Norton High School football game. He stated that they are very proud of what she did and are grateful that the town is giving her this citation for her actions. ► Councilor Pellegrini read aloud the proclamation honoring firefighter/paramedic Becki Carloni on her heroic actions performed during a crisis at the end of a football game in Norton, MA, where she administered CPR to a person who was in distress; the man's life was saved.

*Chair Mercer called a two-minute recess.*

**APPOINTMENTS:** ► **Library Board of Directors - Alison Wallace**. ► Councilor Jones read the appointment. ► **MOTION to Ratify** the appointment by the Town Administrator of Alison Wallace to

serve as a Member of the Library Board of Directors with a term to expire on June 30, 2025, by **Jones. SECOND** by **Hamblen. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated that Ms. Wallace has been a member of the Board in previous years, and they are excited to have her back. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-YES; Sheridan-YES. ► VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

**HEARINGS: None.**

**LICENSE TRANSACTIONS:** ► *La Cantina Winery Company, Farmer-Winery, Special License to allow sale of wine at 2022-2023 Franklin Winter Farmers Market located at 887 Lincoln Street.*

► Councilor Jones read the license transaction. ► **MOTION to Approve** the issuance of a Farmer-Winery, Special License to La Cantina Winery Company to allow sale of wine at the 2022-2023 Franklin Winter Farmers Market located at 887 Lincoln Street, Franklin, MA, by **Jones. SECOND** by **Hamblen. Discussion:** ► Ms. Alleyne stated that this application has been signed off by all departments for La Cantina Winery to sell at the Winter Farmers Market which runs every Saturday from November 19, 2022, through April 1, 2023. ► Councilor Hamblen thanked La Cantina Winery and the Vozzella's for all their support for all the Farmers Markets. ► Councilor Cormier-Leger noted that this is not the first time this applicant has applied for this and there has never been an incident; he is an upstanding business person. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-YES; Sheridan-YES. ► VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

**PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS:** ► *Presentation: Recreation Department, Ryan Jette, Director of Recreation.* ► Recreation Director Ryan Jette and Recreation Advisory Board Chair Wayne Simarrian addressed the Town Council. Mr. Jette narrated his slideshow presentation. He stated that the Recreation Department offers the residents of Franklin a variety of programs and events for youth and adults as well as coordination of field use for all athletic organizations. In FY22, they had 6,293 children enrolled in programs and the department brought in \$619,000 in revenue. He stated that they brought in about \$52,000 more than they spent. He stated that his office is staffed by three full-time staff and one part-time administrative assistant. He stated that they have 91 active part-time employees including program coordinators, referees, camp counselors, art instructors, gate guards, and high school aides/instructors. He noted that they also have tax work-off volunteers and volunteer coaches. He stated that 55 percent of the budget is personnel. He discussed Recreation Department operations including programs, events, facility scheduling, park planning, and volunteer management. He discussed that in 2022, the Recreation Department offered 117 unique programs with 400 different class offerings. He reviewed the summer camp and sport programs including basketball, track, and volleyball. He noted the food pantry garden beds and the pickleball participation. He noted popular fall, winter, spring, and summer programs. He stated that they do community education including CPR/AED training, first aid classes, and officiating certification courses. He highlighted the fields and playgrounds and discussed that the Recreation Department does all permitting of field and playgrounds in town, and they work closely with the DPW to ensure proper maintenance of all playgrounds. He provided a list of the inventory of facilities for playgrounds and the fields and locations. He showed some pictures of the facilities. He provided and reviewed a list of proposed/possible capital projects. He provided a list of recreation opportunities in Franklin. ► Mr. Hellen stated that he wanted to remind everyone that this is all done by three staff people and volunteers. He thanked the Recreation Department for their commitment to the community and he thanked the Recreation Advisory Board. ► Town Council members asked questions, made comments, and thanked Mr. Jette and the Recreation Department. ► Councilor Jones noted that the Recreation Department is self-funded. ► Councilor Chandler noted the need for restrooms rather than portables. ► Mr. Jette explained that the youth organizations using the fields have a shut-off code for the lights, and the lights are also on a timer and will go off every night if they are not shut off. ► Councilor Hamblen thanked the Recreation Department for their efforts with the community garden. ► Councilor Sheridan asked about a possible portable restroom for DelCarte and a possible rental company for canoeing and

kayaking for DelCarte. ► Mr. Jette stated that they are looking into that. ► Mr. Simarrian thanked Mr. Hellen and the Town Council for their support of recreation. ► Mr. Jette explained that they do not charge youth organizations that have 100 percent Franklin participants for the use of the fields; however, if they have out-of-town participants, they are charged and for-profit organizations are charged. ► Mr. Cerel stated that making the fields available without a fee protects the Town from liability because there is a statute that says if you allow your property to be used for recreational purposes and do not charge a fee, you are not liable for negligence. ► Mr. Hellen reminded everyone that regarding the high school stands, the Town Council approved the funding for that a few years ago. He stated that unfortunately, the downside is that the project is on the list and susceptible of being rolled into a lot of other high school improvements which would require borrowing at this time which means interest rates, and so it will probably be a little while longer, but it is something we are aware of and working on it. ► Chair Mercer stated that he thinks the community is in a great place with regarding recreation.

► **Discussion: Davis-Thayer Reuse Committee.** ► Mr. Hellen stated that tonight the Town Council will have its first discussion on the future of Davis-Thayer. He stated that the Town Council's meeting packet is available on the Town's website and it has a lot of information on this item. He stated that the building structure is in good shape and was well maintained. He stated that as the photographs show, there are still a lot of items in the building. He noted that there is no elevator in the building and it is not ADA accessible. He noted that when moving items out of the building, it is the old-fashioned way of moving; it is not easy work. He stated that he has outlined next steps in his memo to the Town Council dated November 10, 2022. He stated that the Town Council has to determine how they want to move forward with a Davis-Thayer Reuse Committee Charge; he explained that for the reuse of surplus buildings, municipalities always form a reuse committee. He recommended two options: the Town Council serves on the official Reuse Committee or develop a Citizens Advisory Committee in charge of stakeholders and have that committee present a final report to the full Town Council of recommendations, which is what most communities do. He reviewed that the second issue for tonight is for the wish list of potential future uses of Davis-Thayer, which will give Kaestle Boos Associates direction in evaluating those options. He explained that the consultant is already aware of the Town's desire to evaluate the feasibility and conditions of the following: senior affordable housing, artist lofts housing, housing in general; a community recreation and arts center; a temporary indoor pickleball facility; open market sale of the building portion only, or the entire parcel; the potential of a half and half project where the Town maintains the playground and ballfield portion, but leases/sells the building portion; police station; and economic development office leasing space. He stated that the Town Council, stakeholders, or citizens can add additional feasible ideas to the table. He noted that not all ideas are feasible. He noted that this is a significant asset which needs to be maximized as a fiduciary responsibility. He explained that it is 3.48 acres and is assessed at approximately \$4.4 million. The building value is \$2.76 million and the land is valued at \$1.62 million. The location is also of value and is still to be appraised as the use is a school. Any change in use from a public school to a private use will change the value. He stated that this will likely be a long process to make sure the use and future of it will be maximized to its fullest potential. ► Chair Mercer stated that tonight's discussion is focused on just a couple of pieces of this including if the Town Council wants to be the reuse committee or if they want to appoint a reuse committee, and the other piece of that is that we do have a list of options, but anyone can add to the list. He noted that regarding tours of the facility, they need to get it cleaned up before they can have the public in there for tours. ► Town Council members asked questions and made comments. ► In response to questions, Mr. Hellen explained that the School Department identified the items that needed to be moved to where the teachers were going; there was a moving company that moved that stuff out. He stated that it is not uncommon that educators take with them only what they need. He explained that this is just part of the process of cleaning out the building and disposing of it properly as required. He stated that PPE is being stored there as well; he encouraged everyone to not think of Davis-Thayer as storage space. ► Facilities Director Michael D'Angelo stated that to maintain the building as it is, including heat at 55 degrees, testing sprinklers, and security, it costs approximately \$100,000 per year. He noted that Davis-Thayer had

an older electrical system. ► Councilors Cormier-Leger, Chandler, Hamblen, Sheridan, Frongillo, and Jones stated that they would like a citizens advisory committee for the reuse. ► Councilor Pellegri stated that she would say no to selling it to Dean College, making it a police station, or selling it. She stated that it would be okay to have a citizens committee, but she would like to have at least two Town Council members on the committee. ► Chair Mercer stated that this discussion is just to get the ball rolling. ► Mr. Richard Ciccone, 185 Chestnut Street, stated that he is troubled that they let Davis-Thayer get into disarray. He suggested ways to clean out the building. He made suggestions on the reuse of the building including a police station. ► A resident who did not identify his name or address stated that he thought it would be a great location for a police station and noted that the current police station location is not in a good place. ► Mr. Richard Ciccone, 185 Chestnut Street, stated that if the police station is moved to Davis-Thayer, the old police station could be repurposed for recreation or other use. ► Chair Mercer stated that he will close tonight's discussion with the direction to Mr. Hellen to put together a charge for a reuse committee. ► Mr. Hellen stated that the challenging issue is that it will take a while to determine who to put on the committee. ► Chair Mercer stated that they should get the process started.

### **LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:**

**Note:** Two-Thirds Vote requires six votes; Majority Vote requires majority of members present and voting.

- a. ***Resolution 22-71: Further Amending the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-off Abatement Program (Motion to Approve Resolution 22-71 - Majority Vote).*** ► Councilor Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve Resolution 22-71: Further Amending the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-off Abatement Program by Hamblen. SECOND by Chandler. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen reviewed that this is requesting approval of two resolutions to implement changes to tax abatements and exemptions for eligible property owners. The change increases the wage rate to the new state minimum wage on January 1, 2023, and is a part of the Town's policy to ensure the Town complies with the state minimum wage. ► Councilor Chandler confirmed that the Town can only pay the minimum wage as per the state law. ► Councilor Pellegri asked if one person can work in more than one location to perform their work-off. ► Mr. Hellen explained the work-off process and stated that one person could work in more than one place as it is about the total number of hours for the person. He stated that they are struggling with filling the veterans' slots. He confirmed that there are income requirements for the senior work-off program. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-YES; Sheridan-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
- b. ***Resolution 22-72: Further Amending the Veterans' Property Tax Work-off Abatement Program (Motion to Approve Resolution 22-72 - Majority Vote).*** ► Councilor Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve Resolution 22-72: Further Amending the Veterans' Property Tax Work-off Abatement Program by Hamblen. SECOND by Chandler. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen noted this is the same discussion as for the last resolution. ► Councilor Jones noted that the Town Council voted last year on a veterans' property tax break on top of the state's program for the Town to give a benefit to disabled veterans and those application are available. ► Mr. Hellen stated veterans have to contact the Assessor's Office for the abatement process. ► Mr. Cerel stated that there are no income limitations on these programs. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-YES; Sheridan-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
- c. ***Resolution 22-73: General Funds Appropriation, Transfers and Adjustments FY23 (Motion to Approve Resolution 22-73 - Majority Vote).*** ► Councilor Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Waive the reading by Hamblen. SECOND by Sheridan. No discussion.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-NO; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES;**

**Pellegrini-YES; Sheridan-YES. ► VOTE: Yes-7, No-1, Absent-1. ► MOTION to Approve Resolution 22-73: General Funds Appropriation, Transfers and Adjustments FY23 by Hamblen. SECOND by Sheridan. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated that this is very common. He stated that after state aid and the state budget cycle goes through, we are obligated under law to make sure we file the appropriate paperwork with the state before we set our tax rate hearing. He stated that we do not know in May what revenues will be like, so we come back in the fall of every year to take a review of the budget, we incorporate the final state budget numbers, final new growth numbers, and monitor the first quarter revenues of local receipts. He stated that the aggregate shows we are on target for local receipt projections at 25.9 percent through the first quarter. He stated that in the resolution and in his memo which he provided in the Town Council's meeting packet, he outlined that the Finance Committee unanimously approved, 7-0, these budget amendments at its November 9, 2022, meeting. He noted the collective bargaining agreements that have been passed/resolved and the 2.5 percent COLAs. He highlighted that the Town Administrator's budget is going up \$103,000; he stated that is due to the first installment of the opioid settlement money as well as the reduction in fees that the host community agreements are going to pay to the Town from the impact fees. He discussed the 20-year long opioid settlement program and future monies. He noted that this is a transitional year and the money from this year went into his budget as a place to put it. He stated that the other big item on the list is debt service and principal; those increases have gone up. He explained that it was for the renovation of the Town Hall building as well as for the Horace Mann drainage project. He noted that there were some cost overruns on the elections division because of the change in the statute of early voting and mail-in voting. ► Councilor Chandler stated that he liked that the SAFE Coalition is getting their money and Fire and Police are getting more Narcan training. He asked about the cannabis money. ► Mr. Hellen stated that he was giving a plug for the opioid money. He stated that there will have to be a working group on how to distribute those funds. He agreed with Councilor Chandler that the substance abuse problem is not getting any better. He explained that the law changed regarding host community agreements; he discussed that this is an extraordinarily complicated topic. He stated that there were some positives. He stated that Botera and NETA are not going to claw any money back. ► Councilor Chandler stated that he thinks those businesses do more damage than the \$104,000 in excise taxes. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Sheridan-YES. ► VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

- d. Resolution 22-74: Gift Acceptance - Veterans' Services Dept. (\$1,550) (Motion to Approve Resolution 22-74 - Majority Vote).* ► Councilor Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve Resolution 22-74: Gift Acceptance - Veterans' Services Dept. (\$1,550) by Hamblen. SECOND by Sheridan. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen thanked all for the generous donations. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Sheridan-YES. ► VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
- e. Resolution 22-75: Cable Funds in Support of PEG Service and Programming per MGL Ch. 44, §53F3/4 (Motion to Approve Resolution 22-75 - Majority Vote).* ► **MOTION to Waive the reading by Cormier-Leger. SECOND by Chandler. No discussion. ► ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Sheridan-YES. ► VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. ► MOTION to Approve Resolution 22-75: Cable Funds in Support of PEG Service and Programming per MGL Ch. 44, §53F3/4 by Hamblen. SECOND by Cormier-Leger. No discussion. ► ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Sheridan-YES. ► VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Franklin Open Space and Recreation Plan Kickoff Process.** ► Mr. Hellen stated that the train whistles will continue; however, they found an engineering

company to start the quiet zone study. He stated that the study will probably take one year. He stated that the Open Space and Recreation Plan kickoff process information is in the meeting packet. He explained that the Conservation Commission is the board that runs the Open Space and Recreation Plan process. He noted that anyone who is interested should follow the Conservation Commission and check with them at their meetings regarding this. He stated that citizens can provide suggestions. He stated that the goal is to update the seven-year plan as required by law. He thanked Veterans Services Officer Shannon Nisbett, the Elks Club, and the Veterans Council for a great veterans celebration.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. **Capital Budget Subcommittee.** ► None.
- b. **Budget Subcommittee.** ► None.
- c. **Economic Development Subcommittee.** ► Councilor Hamblen stated that the subcommittee met before tonight's Town Council meeting. She stated that they discussed the zoning line cleanup that will be coming to the full Town Council. She stated that they talked about zoning changes, inclusionary zoning, and other items like that from the Franklin for All project. The next meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2022.
- d. **GATRA Advisory Board.** ► Councilor Frongillo stated that the board met today. He stated that GATRA is trying to consolidate to one operation across the region.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None.**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** ► Councilor Chandler noted that the fire department was responding to three calls during the proclamation/recognition of Firefighter/Paramedic Becki Carloni; the department is very busy. ► Councilor Cormier-Leger thanked Town Clerk Nancy Danello for a great election. He congratulated the Veterans Department for a great Veterans Day celebration. He congratulated everyone at the Franklin Art Association for their opening at their new location. He noted disappointment about increased negative behaviors of Franklin's students; he urged all parents to please have these discussions with their kids. He wished all a happy Thanksgiving. ► Councilor Pellegrini agreed with Councilor Cormier-Leger's concerns about students' negative behaviors including throwing flowers over the train bridge. She thanked Town Clerk Nancy Danello for the great election. She thanked Ms. Nesbitt for a great job on the veterans' celebration. She said that a woman got her foot caught in a hole in the sidewalk at St. Mary's Church and there are pieces all coming up. She mentioned the benches at the old museum; she said that something should be put on Facebook to let people know they are available. ► Councilor Hamblen stated that she echoed everyone's thoughts. She noted opportunities on Saturday to decorate downtown with greens and bows, and said that the Farmers Market at Fairmount Fruit Farm will be open. ► Councilor Frongillo said happy Thanksgiving and noted the food pantry. He discussed that the rail trail goes all the way through Grove Street. ► Councilor Sheridan stated that he echoed what everyone has said and he thanked the Veterans Council for the great luncheon. ► Councilor Jones thanked all those who came out to vote. He stated that the veterans' luncheon was a great event. He noted the DAV 5k on Castle Island this past Sunday to support disabled veterans. He stated that Dean College had their second community alliance program as part of their attempt to reach out to the surrounding neighborhood and hear concerns. He stated that they are hoping to do monthly meetings; however, there will be no meeting in December. He stated that in the past few weeks, work has begun on renovating the inside of the new Franklin Food Pantry; Edwin's is being transformed into the new Franklin Food Pantry. ► Chair Mercer noted the great election, the great Veterans Day brunch, and he congratulated Ms. Becki Carloni for going above and beyond. He discussed the Dean community group that has been formed and stated that they had their second meeting. He stated that this is to reach out to the entire community not just the neighbors of Dean College. He stated that if there are things that you have questions about or items that you would like to talk to the Dean administration about, please come to these meetings. He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** ► *Considering the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Public Body.*

► Chair Mercer stated there is a need for an executive session for considering the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Public Body, and the chair so declares, and we will not return to open session.

► **MOTION to Enter** executive session for the purpose of considering the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Public Body and the chair so declares, and to not return to open session, by **Jones. SECOND** by **Hamblen. No Discussion.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Sheridan-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

*Open Session ended at 9:21 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Judith Lizardi  
Recording Secretary





## Introduction

- Franklin Recreation Department offers the residents of Franklin a variety of programs and events for youth and adults as well as coordination of field use for all athletic organizations. Our registration numbers continue to grow each year. In FY2022, we had 6,293 kids enrolled in programs and our department brought in \$619,000.00 in revenue. That's 19% of the total population enrolled in programs. We estimate more than 25% of the population are impacted by Recreation in some way. Trails, fields, playgrounds, programs, etc.




## Recreation Department Staff

- 3 Full Time office staff, 1 Park time admin asst.
- 91 Active part time employees which includes program coordinators (10), referees (42), camp counselors (18), art instructors (3), gate guards (4), high school aides/instructors (6)
- Tax work off volunteers (100 hours per year)
- Volunteer coaches (140)
- Contracted employees (40 officials, programs)
- 55% department budget is personnel

## Recreation Department Operations

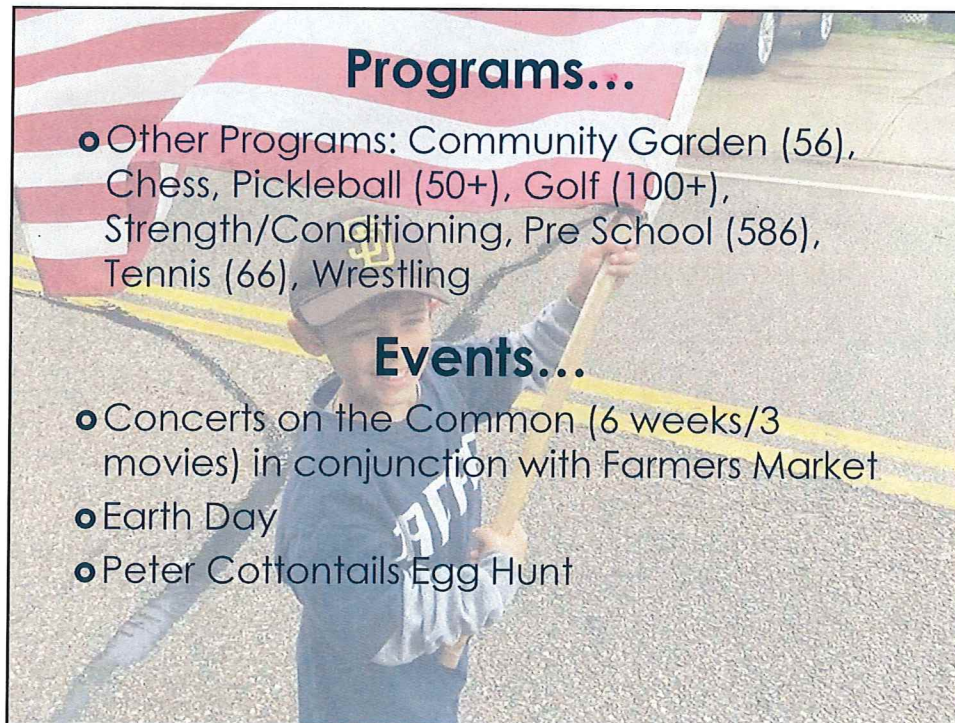
- Programs (100+ annual)
- Events (Concerts/Movie Night, Earth Day-200, Egg hunt-118)
- Facility Scheduling (5000 kids in youth sports)
- Park Planning (Town playgrounds/fields)
- Volunteer Management (eagle scouts, sports teams performing comm service)





### Programs...

- In 2022, the Recreation Department offered 117 unique programs, with 400 different class offerings and as I mentioned, 6,293 participants.
- Summer Camp 1,121 kids
- Rec. Basketball 1380 kids; 900 in our K-8 winter program, and 480 in our HS intramural program (3 X per year).
- Flag 575, Pee Wee 289, G-Lax 236, Field hockey 390 (plus Commonwealth 100+ teams), Track/Running 194, Street 140 Volleyball 90,



### Programs...

- Other Programs: Community Garden (56), Chess, Pickleball (50+), Golf (100+), Strength/Conditioning, Pre School (586), Tennis (66), Wrestling

### Events...

- Concerts on the Common (6 weeks/3 movies) in conjunction with Farmers Market
- Earth Day
- Peter Cottontails Egg Hunt



## Programs in 2022

Art Exploration 3/4 Week Workshops	Game On Mobile Gaming	Pickleball
Art Exploration One Day Workshops	Girls Field Hockey	Preschool Summer Camp
Art Exploration Summer Camp	Girls Lacrosse	Preschool Themed Drop Off Classes
Art Exploration Thursday	Golf	Real World Robotics
Art Exploration Tuesday	Happy Feet	Recreation Basketball
Basketball 3v3 Tournaments	High School Intramural Basketball	Red Ball Tennis
Basketball Skills & Drills	Kids to SKI	Red Cross Babysitting Training
Breakfast with Santa	King Street Summer Camp	Robotics
Chess	Ladies Light Hike	Rocketry
College/Adult Field Hockey Summer League	Ladies Snowshoe	Snapology Robotics Themed Classes
Community Garden	Leader in Training Program	Strength & Conditioning
CPR/First Aid Training	Little Science Seekers	Tomorrow Stars Flag Football Camp
Disc Golf	Mini Stix Field Hockey	Track & Field Indoor
Earth Day Clean Up!	Mini Stix Lacrosse	Track & Field Outdoor
Field Hockey	More Fun With Friends (Tuesday)	Volleyball
Field Hockey Jamboree	More Fun With Friends (Wednesday)	Wrestling
First Friends	Music & Movement	Yoga on the Beach
Learn to Fish	NHL Street Hockey	Young Artists
Flag Football	Pee Wee Baseball	
Flag Football Camps	Peter Cottontails Eggcellent Adventure	

## Fall Programs

- NFL Flag Football-575 kids (ages 6-14)
- Girls Field Hockey-390 kids (ages 6-14)
- Golf (year round)-200 kids/adults
- Kids to 5K-75 girls (year round)
- Art and Pre School (year round)

Franklin Recreation founded the Commonwealth Field Hockey League with 17 Towns, 100 teams from around the state.

<https://www.commonwealthfieldhockey.com/>



## Winter Programs

- Basketball-1380 kids (K-12)
- Indoor Track & Field- 194 kids (ages 6-14)
- Volleyball-90 girls (middle school)
- Wrestling-35 kids
- Tennis
- Speed & Strength
- Pickleball
- Indoor field hockey and lacrosse

## Spring Programs

- Girls Lacrosse-236 kids (year round)
- Pee Wee Baseball- 214 kids
- Street Hockey-130 kids
- Outdoor Track/Kids to 5K-130 kids
- Community Garden-56 beds
- Golf Lessons-200 kids/adults per season
- Pickleball-NEW fastest growing sport in US, learn to play and competitive classes





## Summer Programs

- King Street Summer Camp-1,121 kids in 8 weeks.
- Chilson Beach-Franklin residents only
- Summer Sports Camps (Beaver turf)-300 kids
- Pre School camp-200+ kids
- Concerts/Movies on the Common
- Track series
- Baseball & week long educational programs (computer software, Snapology, engineering)



## Community Education

- CPR/AED Training
- First Aid Classes
- Red Cross Babysitting classes
- Baseball and Basketball officiating certification courses
- Seasonal programs: Valentines Day art, Cookies w/ Santa, Mothers Day Tea party
- Photography



## Fields & Playgrounds

The Recreation Department does all permitting of fields and playgrounds in town. We work closely with the DPW to ensure proper maintenance of all playgrounds is kept up to ASTM and CPSC standards. We also schedule all playing fields for 5,000 kids in youth sports and FHS sports.

New playground equipment at Beaver Pond in 2021 (Vendetti playground) and fitness course completed today. King Street improvements in 2019 and DelCorte playground in 2017. Currently planning new playgrounds at Nason Street Tot Lot and Fletcher Field which should be complete by 2023. Working on master plan for King Street Memorial Park.

## Inventory of Facilities

### Playgrounds

- Beaver Pond Fitness course (2022)
- Vendetti Playground at Beaver Pond (2021)
- King Street Memorial Playground (2005), Improvements made in 2019
- DelCorte Recreation Area (2017)
- Dacey Community Field Playground (2007), Dacey Disc Golf (2013)
- Fletcher Field Playground (2004 & 2015), improvements coming in 2023.
- Nason Street Tot Lot (2003) improvements coming in 2023

### Fields & Locations

- Dacey Community Fields on Lincoln Street
- Fletcher Field on Peck Street
- Plsani Field (formally Theron Metcalf) on Peck Street
- King Street Memorial on King Street
- Beaver Pond (Chilson Beach) on Beaver Street
- Franklin High School on Oak Street
- Horace Mann School on Oak Street
- Parmenter School on Wachusett Street
- Davis Thayer School on East Central & Union Street
- Remington-Jefferson School on Washington Street
- J.F. Kennedy School on Pond Street
- Oak Street School on Oak Street
- Tri County Regional Vocational High School on Pond Street
- Meadowlark Field on Meadowlark Lane off Chestnut Street



## Facility Pics



## Facility Pics





## Capital Projects

- o Nason Street Tot Lot
- o Fletcher Field Playground (front structure and surfacing)
- o King Street Memorial Park Master Plan (building, lights, parking, playground, splash pad, pickleball)
- o Dacey Field playground
- o Horace Mann Fields and track improvements (behind school) and upper basketball area
- o -Beaver Pond scoreboard and press box
- o -Remington basketball courts (post tension concrete)
- o -FHS Baseball/softball restroom facility
- o -FHS stadium bleachers (visitors side)
- o -Dacey Field restroom facility
- o -Front turf at FHS resurfaced
- o -FHS Tennis courts resurfaced (post tensioned concrete)

## Recreation Opportunities in Franklin

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Boating         | Badminton       |
| Hiking          | Cricket         |
| Pickleball      | Beach           |
| Swimming        | Canoe & Kayak   |
| Dog Park        | Chess           |
| Basketball      | Cooking         |
| Soccer          | Tennis          |
| Football        | Ice Skating     |
| Flag Football   | Gardening       |
| Baseball        | Track           |
| Hockey          | Bocce           |
| Softball        | Dance           |
| Street Hockey   | Cycling         |
| Lacrosse        | Museum          |
| Field hockey    | Art             |
| Volleyball      | Golf            |
| Sand Volleyball | Mountain Biking |
| Sculpture Park  | Fishing         |
| Disc Golf       | Weightlifting   |
| Martial Arts    |                 |

A group of approximately 15 people, including men and women of various ages, are posing for a group photo on a grassy field. They are standing in front of a large, dark blue wall that features the words 'FRANKLIN' and 'PANTHERS' in large, light blue, block letters. The wall appears to be part of a sports facility, possibly a baseball or softball field, as a fence and trees are visible in the background under a clear blue sky. The people are dressed in casual summer attire, including t-shirts, tank tops, and shorts. Some are standing in the back row, while others are sitting or kneeling in the front row.

**Questions?**

Thanks for allowing me to share all the great things going on at the Recreation Department.

**QUESTIONS?**

**SUGGESTIONS ON PROGRAMMING OR FACILITIES?**

Franklin Recreation Department  
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[www.franklinma.gov/recreation-department](http://www.franklinma.gov/recreation-department)  
"Just for the fun of it!"