

Minutes 7/14 Parks Commission

Firehouse Pavillion

Attending: Tom Mensi, Gerry Clarins, Chris Andrews, Steve Snyder, Tracey Brennan

Bidwell Park

Extensive damage occurred from the recent storm. We will talk to Jim Hunt about how to proceed.

Town Beach

Steve will speak with Janise at Berkshire South to correct the discrepancies in the June lifeguard invoice.

The foundation for the memorial bench at the beach will be poured soon. The donor is satisfied with the process and placement.

The beach plaque is at Chester Granite where it will eventually be mounted in a stone.

We have no definite quote for electricity at the beach, but it seems it will be expensive, and we are dropping it for now.

Playground

Tom has 35 survey responses regarding the playground. He met with a playground equipment rep. who thinks that construction can avoid the septic distribution center and pipes. The septic center is in the middle of the playground, but it is 2 feet down.

Ballfield

The ballfield needs a great deal of professional work that has been neglected over the years. It will be a big expense, and we currently do not have the money in our budget. An additional amount for the ballfield would need to be added to our budget each year. We agreed that Gerry will attend the next selectboard meeting and in addition discuss the field work with the highway department. Tom will ask Ira and his group of players to attend the meeting and also to commit to doing yearly volunteer maintenance once the field is improved.

Chris again stressed the possibility of the creation of a town maintenance position who would maintain all parks, playgrounds, and town hall– from trash to snow clearing.

Steve will follow up with Greenagers to see if they could work on the renewal of the Brewer Pond trail.

Movie Night

Chris is the liaison to Tim of Fun Flicks. We will have popcorn and cotton candy (extra charge to us).

We will need extra trash cans, hopefully the ones the fire company uses for the steak roast.

Tracey will contact police to make sure an officer is present that night.

Yoga

We agreed that the yoga teacher will ask her students to pay her directly. Payment will not come from Parks budget.

A question arose about Chair Yoga, which we do pay for–does the teacher charge her students in addition to that?

Boat Moorings

Questions must go to the Harbormaster.

Dogs on the Beach

Though a resident requested more signage, we agreed that extra signage is useless. Tracey will ask the police to park or leave a car at the beach, especially on weekend early mornings.

Beach Parking

We began a discussion about possibly limiting beach parking to residents. Our first questions to the town counsel resulted in a letter which references the town's 1989 land management agreement with the state. We have studied the agreement which makes it clear that the town may not restrict access to the boat launch for purposes of fishing and boating, but there are many other questions which we would like to ask the lawyer. Tracey will draft the next letter.

Next Meeting: August 4