

Meeting Minutes Feb 8, 2023

Rec Committee members present:

Lisa Donahue
Kimberly Putney- remote
Jeff Hixon- remote
Tom Stevens

Town Citizens:
Lance from Boxford CATV

Call to order at 7:05

Playground Inspections-

rec com members agree that these would be appropriate

Lisa will reach out to Steve Clifford to find out what the schools do for inspections in Boxford
Boxford SCHOOL playgrounds are OUTSIDE of rec com purview

Jeff will check in with Topsfield rec staff to find out what their inspections look like and also the frequency of them

Is there a particular qualification for conducting playground safety inspections? Who would do this? Would rec com hire someone? DPW may not have the bandwidth, although we may be able to partner with DPW for necessary repairs revealed by the inspection process.

Tennis/Pickleball courts-

DPW responsible for power washing, replacement of nets, resurfacing

Lisa has forwarded pictures from Mark Sullivan to Chris Olbrot

Chris Olbrot from DPW will follow up and have nets replaced

Update from Leslie regarding courts:

424 reservations for tennis courts, 162 for pickleball reservations

Of note- each pickleball reservation includes 4 players

Jeff mentioned that we should be keeping track of these type of expenses, so that we can eventually create a rec committee budget

Jonson Field Playground updates-

Slideshow presented to available parties

Slideshow included pictures of current playground structures, information pertaining to barriers to building (most notably landfill debris buried beneath site and removal of trees), old playground proposal from 2012, pictures of other local parks for comparison, and a new draft proposal with surface structures that require no digging and shallow digging only. It would include a climbing area with faux logs/faux rock structures for ages 2-5, swings (including inclusive swings), and a second taller climbing rock structure for ages 5-11. BAA has also

offered to have a composite climbing log relocated to Johnson Playground from the Town Commons if desired.

Rec Com members are in favor of moving forward with this design process. Will discuss surfacing options at subsequent meetings.

Dorman land updates-

Following Land Committee Meeting held on Jan 31, 2023

Lisa and Jeff attended

Dorman land use will be presented at May town meeting

Proposed to be covered by CPC funding but also would require a bond, therefore would require wide citizen support

3 recreational possibilities set forth:

A Playground, pavilion, pickleball

B Same as above but also an open glade

C Same as idea A, but also a little league or softball field

Blanding Turtle habitat of concern- almost entire land parcel. Significant consideration would need to be given in site design and habitat conservation/creation of equal habitat. Vernal pools.

Current owners are considering selling it as 3 buildable lots, and then additional community green space

Considerations for rec com:

Are we interested in this land for town recreation?

Do we need another playground?

Do we need more fields? Tom Stevens of BAA says yes, many more children and teams than currently available fields. Fields would be an asset- question feasibility of creating fields for use when the wetland portion is so large.

Kostner field and Morse field both need work

There are really only 2 available fields at Cole and 2 at Spofford

Our Committee feedback to Land Committee (Lisa will deliver)

Rec Com would be interested in acquiring the land with the expectation that physical structures- amenities- would be built, not interested in purchase for sole open land/conservation use. Also not particularly interested in another playground, assuming that plans move forward to renovate Johnson field/park.

Suggest potential for gazebo with picnic tables, as requested in Johnson playground survey (1st choice responses were for a new playground, followed by picnic area and gathering space), combined with more Pickleball/tennis courts

May be able to dedicate current area behind police station and then Dorman area as separate- one for pickle ball and the other for tennis. Pickle ball is a growing sport.

Committee updates

BTA BOLT- no updates. They are considering Dorman land as well.

CPC- Our committee no longer has a CPC liaison

BAA- March/April will bring repairs/maintenance. There is no timeframe for upgrades to dugouts/concession stand idea at Johnson Field.

Park Program- no longer on Rec Com website, so presumably being run by Town Hall
2 open positions for new members

Wed March 15th 7p next meeting
Consider Newsletter for Spring

Motion to adjourn by Tom Stevens
Seconded by Lisa Donahue

Meeting concluded at 8:02p