



TOWN OF MENDON
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

20 Main Street
Mendon, Massachusetts 01756
Phone: (508) 473-0600 Fax: (508) 478-8241
Email: parkcomm@mendonma.gov
mendonma.gov/parks

Meeting Date: 2/15/2022

Meeting Location: Hybrid, Mendon Town Hall, Upper Meeting Room, 20 Main St. Mendon

Minutes Approved: 3/21/2022

Members Present: Tom Belland, Dan Byer, AJ Byrne

Members Absent:

Parks Director: Dan Byer

Others:

The meeting was called to order at 7pm with Dan, Tom, and AJ in attendance. This meeting was held in “hybrid” format via Teams. The three commissioners were present in person, and no one attended remotely.

The commissioners discussed the kayak rentals. Dan got more info on the rentals. It was suggested we start with 3 or 4 dates this summer. The cost is \$20 per person, and we can take registrations. The total capacity would be 30 people per hour, and we could do a 2-hour window. They discussed the timing. Dan also discussed offering our own rentals if this is successful. Proposed dates are 6/28, 7/26, 8/16, Dan will try and book them for the next meeting.

AJ asked about the rental slips. Dan said there are 12. We need to get signage still and figure out the details. They discussed pricing and agreed on \$100 per spot. 4/1-11/1.

Tom asked about cameras, Dan said he would like to include that in the beach project. They were supposed to get pricing from Worldband and Sunset Sound for some IT upgrades but he’s not sure on the timeline. Dan will follow up.

Dan made a motion to set the kayak slip rental price at \$100, Tom seconded and all approved.

The commission discussed the town beach pricing. Dan shared the current rates (\$2/person for residents, \$3/person for non). AJ said we are very cheap. Dan said we haven’t changed the price since 2012. They also discussed the season passes. Current pricing is \$50 and \$125.

Dan made a motion to set the following pricing and hours for the town beach:

Monday-Friday 11am-7pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am-7pm, \$3/person for Mendon Residents, \$5/person for non-residents, \$75 for resident season passes, \$150 for non-resident passes, and 2+under/60+ are free.

Tom seconded and all approved.

The commission discussed the beach project. Dan reviewed the current plans. They discussed possible renovations to the bathrooms, ADA upgrades, and the upper bathroom area. We need to get pricing together for the upcoming CPA meeting and town meeting. Dan said we need numbers by March. They discussed replacing the tables and possible amphitheater seating. Tom and Dan will get together to review the plans and bring back an update to the board. We may need some additional engineering to complete ADA work. Tom will try and get some estimates from Sean to help budgeting. Dan is working on playground pricing.

The commission reviewed the plans for swim lessons. Dan shared the structure and schedule. There will be 2 sessions, about a month long each. Levels 1-3 on Mon/Wed/Fri, and 4-6 on Tu/Th. They discussed pricing and agreed on \$80 for residents and \$95 for non-residents. **(Exhibit A)**

Tom made a motion to approve the 2022 lesson program, Dan seconded, all approved.

The commission discussed the rec program. They discussed pricing. Dan is proposing \$240 and \$55. Upton is similar. They commission reviewed the draft policies. **(Exhibit B)** Most of this is the same as previous years. We are keeping several scheduling items from COVID including the groups. AJ said Just A Wee just went to masks optional and have had good feedback from parents. They discussed the COVID policies. It's all up in the air still. AJ said they are keeping people out for 10 days if there is an illness.

Dan made a motion to approve the 2022 Rec Program as presented, Tom seconded and all approved.

The commission discussed the financial assistance policy. **(Exhibit C)** Dan is proposing a few small changes, decrease the percentage from 25% to 20%. Also excluding non-resident swim lessons since that program is funded through tax dollars. We will accept non-resident applications for the rec program.

Dan made a motion to approve the updated financial assistance policies, Tom seconded, all approved.

The commission reviewed field use and discussed. As previously discussed, the commission is amending our policy to clarify the seasonal deadlines. Going forwards we grant priority use to groups who submit their requests prior to each season's deadline. After that time, permits will be issued on a first-come/first-serve basis regardless of grouping.

The commission discussed the work with softball on their fields and the parking lot. Dan had reached out to let them know the work on the field was unfinished. They agree that work on the parking lot will probably need to wait for the beach project to be completed.

Dan also proposed another edit to the use policies. He'd like to clarify what requests can be approved by the Parks Director vs the whole commission. He suggests the following:

Director of Parks & Recreation	Parks Commission
Pavilion Use and general use requests during regular daytime hours	League Seasonal Use Capital Improvement Waivers Any event with Alcohol Any event taking place after dark Use of concession stands Mediate scheduling conflicts

Dan made a motion to approve the updates to the use policy, Tom seconded, and all approved.

The commission discussed the Whitinsville Christian facility use contract. Dan said it has now expired. He's not sure if they still have a baseball team and need the fields. All agree the contract would need to be changed and renegotiated if it were to be renewed. Dan will reach out to see if they still have a team. Tom said the older age groups have moved to club teams now. There used to be 6 babe ruth teams through NYB and that has all dried up now.

The commission reviewed the requests for 2022 spring use. **Dan made a motion to approve the following:**

- **Next Steps Sports – Clough Field**
- **Nipmuc Youth Baseball – Tetreault, Grant, Grady, Pezzella, Clough**
- **Nipmuc Youth Softball – Lowell, Wagner**
- **Inside Corner – Tetreault**
- **Mendon Upton Youth Soccer – Grover**

Tom seconded and all approved.

The commission discussed fee waivers and will schedule discussions with baseball and softball at a later meeting.

The commission discussed Morrison Drive and the need for a parks maintenance garage. Tom thinks it would cost around \$250k to get a new building at the park but for only \$150K we could get Morrison Dr to a point where it could be usable.

The commission reviewed the budget in preparation for the 2/16 meeting with the select board and fincom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.