



**TOWN OF MENDON**  
**PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

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**Meeting Date:** 3/29/2021  
**Meeting Location:** Remote Zoom Meeting  
**Minutes Approved:** 1/11/2022

**Members Present:** Tom Belland, Dan Byer, AJ Byrne

**Members Absent:**

**Parks Director:** Dan Byer

**Others:** Stephen Bodio, Mark Gerimia, Chris Corbett, Chris Collins (all Nipmuc Youth Baseball), Fire Chief William Kessler

*The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm with the 3 commissioners as well as Stephen Bodio, Mark Geremia, Chris Corbett, and Chris Collins (all from Nipmuc Youth Baseball) in attendance. The meeting was held by Zoom conference due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency and pursuant to the revisions to the Open Meeting Laws. All votes will be taken by roll call.*

The commission discussed field use with Nipmuc Youth Baseball. Mizzuno is interested again in using the fields. Steve said they will want Pezzella and Grady. The commission discussed leaving open block of time for the club use if possible. Steve said there is more interest from the Clubs due to COVID.

*Fire Chief Bill Kessler joined at 7:12pm.*

The commission discussed the priority of the club use and agree it should be considered Group 4 as they are out of town. Tom said we should go by past practice, the local leagues get first priority, but if there is available space we can allow additional use.

Nipmuc Youth Baseball asked if they could start using the fields. All agree yes as long as they are not too wet. Steve said Pezzella is good, Grady they re-did the infield, and Grant and Tetreault are still wet. Dan said the bathrooms will be opened as soon as the weather warms up.

The commission and NYB reviewed COVID 19 protocols for the 2021 season. Steve said masks are required for players per the state. They have been ok practicing indoors for now. Dan said last fall went well with no issues or complaints.

Dan discussed a scheduling conflict with soccer over Clough. Tom said baseball submitted first. Steve said they can give up time to soccer after 4/1.

The commission and NYB discussed the batting cage project. All agree we are still in favor. Due to COVID we had to suspend all expenditures but things are in much better shape as we re-open. Chris reviewed the plan. Tom said this will be a big improvement. Parks agree they will pay \$5K towards this project. The gravel base will reduce the needs to mow inside and around the cage. They discussed timing. Dan said before the rec program starts would be ideal. All agree the previous approval vote is still valid

(7/30/2020). They discussed the location. All confirmed it will not be too close to Grady. There will still be 10+ feet for a vehicle to get through.

The commission discussed the capital improvement waiver and field use fees for NYB. The work on the Baseball infield was \$2,410, The dugouts were \$2K. The cost of the batting cage will be around \$15,000. Tom stated the improvements to the dugouts and batting cages address safety concerns and meet our standard for waiving the capital fees.

The group discussed Tetreault field. Ideally we would like to install irrigation on this field in the future. Steve would like to bring in more infield material.

*The group from Nipmuc Youth Baseball left the meeting.*

Dan introduced Chief Bill Kessler to Tom and AJ. Chief Kessler discussed his needs for water access from the lake. With the sale of the marina they would like to set up a reliable supply point for water. The access path next to the beach is ideal. An engine could drive down and pump water into tankers which could loop on Taft Ave. It is a safer location than on RT 16. Bill has talked to Alan Tetreault (Highway Surveyor) and they would like to re-do the existing access path with asphalt millings so a truck can drive about ½ way down. They would install bollards at ½ way point to stop people from using this as a boat launch for trailers. These improvements would also benefit parks by increasing the usability of the space. The commissioners agree, current access is limited and this project is a good idea. Tom asked if this will impact any of the drainage work. Dan says he thinks they can also clean up the existing stormwater outfall. Bill would like to also stage a length of pipe along the fence so they are ready to go when responding. All agree and support this project.

The commission discussed the beach project. All agree beach is a priority. Tom suggests a survey to get information on what people want to see on the beach. These improvements should drive more traffic. The erosion issues are the main priority. Alan said he may be able to have his crew do the work and we just have to pay for the materials. All agree to move forward with Alan on the drainage work and focus on the design next.

Dan found an eagle scout interested in building Kayak racks for us. He found another town that has them and rents out space for storage. This may be another way to generate some more income for the beach. AJ would also like to see if we can rent kayaks. Tom thinks Fin and Feather will do them for a fee.

The commission discussed COVID-19. Dan is working on updating our policies for this summer.

The commission discussed the Snack Shack floor. Dan got a price for the shack floor and beach bathrooms for an epoxy coating. It is \$3,800. This is the last step on the improvements in the shack and is badly needed. All agree to approve the contract.

The commission discussed staffing and maintenance positions. Interviews are tomorrow night. There are 4 applicants for 1 position. Plus there are 3 from last year interested in returning.

Dan asked about offering Alan DeAngelis free tuition for his child to attend the rec program as part of his compensation package. AJ says it is probably cheaper than paying him more hourly.

The commission discussed summer programming. Current registration numbers are in the 20's. Things are looking better than 2020 but it is too early to tell.

The commission discussed the schedule for the rec program. There is a potential issue with Alan not available until Wednesday of the first week. All agree to run the program starting Monday the 21<sup>st</sup>. Jenn has said she will be ok for the first 2 days by herself and Dan will be there.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9pm*