



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: 2/16/17
Meeting Location: Mendon Town Hall
20 Main St. Mendon, MA
Minutes Approved: 3/20/17

Members Present: Dan Byer, AJ Byrne, Tom Belland

Parks Director: Dan Byer

Others: Len Krygsman, Chris Hadfield

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm with Tom and Dan in attendance as well as Chris and Len.

The board met with Len Krygsman from Whitinsville Christian Schools. They are restarting their baseball program and would like to reinstate the contract with the parks for field use. Last year they did not use the fields due to a lack of program participants They would need 3-5:30 M-F on Tetreault. Tom said there are no games on Tetreault until after Memorial Day and Nipmuc Youth Baseball's practices start at 6. Len says they have a light schedule with only 7 or 8 games. He's trying to bring back the JV program. Tom said to make sure we get Dan S. the schedule. Tom will send an email to Dan S and Len to introduce them. Tom and Dan explained that Mendon Senior and Junior Baseball have merged into NYB now. Len asked about the shed. Tom thinks it was cleaned but WCS' stuff is still there. Len will coordinate with NYB for equipment and to review the fields.

The commission also discussed the planned drainage project with Len. Dan shared the current plans. Len agreed that would be more effective than the previous plans he had seen a year ago.

AJ arrived at 5:45

The commission discussed the terms of the contract. Dan explained they pay 1/2 the fertilization bill, approximately \$1,500. They also discussed public use of Tetreault field. Tom explained they tried to keep the mound covered but people keep moving it. Chris stated soccer has the same problems with people moving goals and they finally had to chain them together. Dan suggested a sign directing people to other fields or the practice mounds. All three commissioners feel that the other 5 fields are more appropriate for general use and we should try and preserve Tetreault for scheduled use. *Dan will look into a sign.*

Tom made a motion to approve Whitinsville Christian School's 2017 field use, AJ seconded and all approved.

Dan updated the commission on the Well Repair Project. He has gotten a quote from Richardson for \$2,700 or \$1,800 depending on the size of the tank. Tom thinks the smaller one will be fine. Dan will try and get a second quote from Brodeur.

Chris Hadfield shared a proposal with the Commission. He runs the Next Steps Sports Academy. He used to operate at Miscoe but the schools have changed their policies and the cost is too much. Previously he was able to operate through the schools and they got 15% of his revenue, now they want him to pay \$25K. He discussed the history of his program. Currently it runs for 8-10 weeks and has 700 kids. He prefers Miscoe because of the facilities. He would like to partner with the Parks Dept. They have the ability to reserve the school facilities for free and he would pay parks the 15%. The commission discussed and all agree they would like to expand and look at options however there are some issues. Dan explained that the school would not allow us to run a program of this magnitude for free and we would need to pay for the facilities as well. Also, there are some insurance concerns. Tom says Miscoe wouldn't be ideal. Also, we don't have the staff to handle that size of a program. AJ says the insurance should be reasonable based on his experience from Basketball. Chris explained he has worked with Mendon/Upton Soccer and they have reserved the schools for him. AJ says there's a difference from 1 week to an entire summer. Tom thinks we could contract Chris to run programs. It would be similar to our Zumba program. We would take all money and pay a percentage back to NSSA (Next Steps). Alternately Tom suggested we could employ everyone and run the program as our own. Dan is concerned we don't have the staff to manage that. AJ asked who would manage the employees us or Chris. If we contracted Chris, he would manage and we would just pay 1 flat fee or percentage. Dan thinks this would have to go through the procurement process. All agree we need to have further discussions before making any decisions. No one is against or in favor yet as there is a lot of research that needs to be done. Tom suggests Chris move to Clough. We control the fields so that cuts his fees down drastically. He can reserve just the gym through the school. We would charge the Group 3 rate of \$5/hr. Chris thinks that may be an option. They also discussed the Parks facilities. Chris says he prefers to have indoor facilities available for weather. Chris also discussed possible off-season programming. He has several ideas that he is willing to offer the town. *Dan will get some more information from Kim and town Council about various regulations.*

Chris also brought up the idea of using the Nipmuc Woods (4 Taft Ave.) property for soccer fields. Dan explained part of that was where the proposed dog park would be located. He explained that since the 90's it has been under the control of the Parks Dept. Chris has a friend who worked with Upton to do some surveying. He would like to have a survey done to see if a field is possible. Dan says the property was supposed to be a subdivision so it is likely buildable. Chris explained there is a demand for fields and MUYSA has funds they could contribute. The Commission agree this project is worth looking into. Dan thinks CPA could fund the initial study with administrative funds. They discussed possible access from 16 and parking. Tom says we would need at least 40-50 spaces for parking. He thinks there may be more of a demand for mid-size fields rather than a full size one. Chris would like to walk the property. All agree that is fine and they would like to get more info and discuss further.

Dan presented the updated requests from Soccer and Lacrosse. They have figured out their use requests. Soccer will take Grover exclusively, and Clough MWF. Lacrosse will take Clough Tu/Th and Sundays.

Tom made a motion to approve the facility use requests from Mendon Upton Youth Soccer and Nipmuc Youth Lacrosse, AJ seconded, and all approved.

AJ made a motion to accept the minutes of the 1/19/17 meeting.

AJ discussed the AED's at the park. Nipmuc Youth Softball has appointed a safety director, Mike Plumb, after an incident last year. They would like to purchase AED's for the parks facilities. The commission discussed the locations. Dan got a quote for an extreme enclosure and call box unit. This

would allow someone to call 911 and then dispatch would release the unit in an emergency. However, the cost is \$5,000. The commission agreed this is too expensive right now. Dan offered to do some research on other departments and how they locate their AED's. The concern is leaving them exposed to the elements and possible theft in a shed. All agree it is a good idea to locate more AED's on the Parks properties.

Dan discussed a new online registration software. He explained that our current system to take online payments does not work well and wastes a lot of time with overhead. He would like to set up a comprehensive system to handle registrations for all parks programs. He has found a product called Rec1. They will handle rentals registrations, POS and credit payments. The cost is \$100 a month under \$10,000 in gross sales, and 1% of gross over \$10K. Also they would charge credit fees of 3% plus 30¢. All agree we need a better system. Tom was surprised we weren't using a system now. The commission discussed the credit fees. Dan says we can absorb them or transfer them to the customer. AJ suggests we raise prices. Dan thinks our current prices will cover the costs. The commission discussed and decided to leave the prices for now and re-evaluate.

Tom made a motion to authorize Dan Byer to sign a contract for service with Rec1, AJ seconded and all approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.