

BELCHERTOWN PARKS & RECREATION PUBLIC MEETING

May 8, 2019

Present: Bill Vosburgh, Tilo Schiffer, Wilbur Quirk, Brenda Aldrich, Kyle Thibeault, Linda Racicot

Absent: Chris Daley, Nancy Kwiatkowski

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Guest: Michelle Ricker-Skate Park Committee

Minutes from the March 20 meeting were not reviewed due to Tilo not being present at the March meeting and unable to vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Kyle informed the committee that he and Eric Lebeau have been in touch with a structural engineer regarding the pool and is waiting for a report from the engineer.

Kyle informed the committee a disc golf course cannot be constructed at Piper Farms. Erica, Conservation has determined most of the property is wetlands. Another area being considered is 18 acres behind Constantino field. It is not a prime location however the brush is not as invasive. Pete from Pure Flight has been paid \$1800. to design the rough draft at Piper Farms and will now look at the Constantino location.

Kyle presented the design created by Weston & Sampson for the complex project. He also distributed the attached cost estimate for phase one totaling \$1,542.84 to \$1,916.00. He explained the Patrick Committee and Recreation Dept. plan to combined efforts with Town approval to submit a Parc grant to create a complex at the Chestnut Hill old tennis courts. Phase one includes 2 basketball courts, a splash pad, additional parking and renovation of the bathrooms. Phase two includes a pavilion with full kitchen and two multi-purpose grass areas and additional parking.

Last September Kyle discussed the Beach policy regarding the rule "proper attire has to be worn". It has been decided to remove that policy from the sign and have the staff handle any issues on a case by case basis.

NEW BUSINESS

The Town Beach has been tied into the sewer and water. The next project at the Town Beach will be to repave the parking lot in the fall.

Friends of the Rec will be meeting next week.

Brenda introduced Michelle who has been on the Skate Park Committee for several years. The Belchertown Skate Park was closed approximately one month ago due to a video posted of a skater forming tricks without a helmet. There is a sign posted at the park which reads all skaters must wear a helmet. The town discussed having the Recreation Dept. manage the skate park. Kyle expressed he would request cameras to monitor the area or have specific hours with an adult, CPR certified staff member present. Skate park funding is also something that needs to be considered. Kyle is concerned with the liability. He spoke with the South Hadley and Northampton Recreation Dept who also have skate parks open to the public. They explained to Kyle because they have no posted policies and only have a sign posted "skate at own risk" they are not liable. Brenda is going to discuss this with the town lawyer.

Wilbur's term expires 6/30/19 and has informed the committee he will not be returning. Chris's term also expires 6/30/19. Bill will contact Chris to discuss.

Next Recreation Committee meeting is Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Conference Room.

Tilo made a motion to adjourn. *Wilbur seconded, motion passed 3-0-0.*

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.