

BELCHERTOWN PARKS & RECREATION PUBLIC MEETING
Nov. 16, 2016



Present: Chris Daley, Bill Vosburgh, Nancy Kwiatkowski, Tilo Schiffer, Kyle Thibeault, Brenda Aldrich

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m.

REVIEW MINUTES

Minutes from Oct. 5, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Nancy made a motion to accept the minutes from the Oct. meeting, *Tilo seconded, and motion passed 5-0-0.*

Linda Racicot arrived 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

>Kyle informed the Committee Foley Field has been seeded and in good shape.

>Kyle stated he will be submitting a grant application for dugouts. He is in the process of reviewing quotes submitted for reconstruction to the Chestnut Hill softball diamond (Cronk field) dugouts. DPW, (Max Bock), quoted the removal of the dugouts and constructing new would be estimated at 2K per dugout. A contractor, Steve Lempke who constructed dugouts in Granby, came in with a bid of 8K per dugout. Kyle continued to list several other grants that he would like to submit, including, replacing the back fence at CHCS for safety reasons and reconditioning the football track.

>Wilbur asked that the dept. consider covering a percentage of the cost

>Kyle said he would discuss it with John Soja

>Nancy asked what date the applications needed to be submitted

>Wilbur responded Dec. 19, 2016

>Kyle said he will review all the applications with Wilbur before submitting them

>Bill stated he would send a letter of support for each application

>Kyle informed the committee that he met with Pete from Pure Flight in Monson regarding disc golf. The gentlemen walked parcels of land at Piper Farms, Foley and off route 21. Pete recommended creating an 18 hole disc golf course at the Piper Farms location. It was recommended to acquire sponsors for every hole to help cover the cost.

>Nancy asked if Piper Farms was managed by recreation or conservation

>Kyle said he spoke with Gary and asked Lee Anne for stipulation on tree removal

>Nancy stated that additional parking would be needed at Piper Farms

>Kyle said there is access from Springfield Rd however there is concerns with wetland

>Nancy said she spoke with Mike Phaneuf and he expressed just how popular disc golf is

>Kyle said creating an 18 holes course would be recommended. People travel from a distance just for tournaments. Kyle also suggested Friends of the Rec to help offset it

>Nancy said she followed up with her contact at Northern Tree and she was going to get a quote to have the trees cut in the town beach parking lot. Her contact is no longer with Northern Tree

NEW BUSINESS

>Chris asked if anyone has looked into the materials, radiators, etc. at the Patrick Center. He thinks they could be worth money. Chris would like to follow up with Steve

>Brenda stated the Historical society would like to walk through the house

>Kyle said he met with the gentleman who owns the Atkins property on route 181. There are large storage facilities and he was interested to see if they were in any shape to reconstruct into an indoor court/field facility. The space was not large enough.

DIRECTORS REPORT

>Kyle informed the committee that the suburban tryouts had very low numbers but the dept. was able to create 1 team for each division. This season the participants were not told if they made the team the last evening of tryouts, he chose to call everyone the following day. Because many of the children wanted to also tryout for CYO, the following weekend before making a decision whether or not to play for suburban, it created problems. Kyle stated he will review and possibly change policies related to suburban before next season. Kyle again reminded the committee as he said last meeting, the community is conflicted between Suburban and CYO. Players/parents put more focus on placing players with friends rather than the appropriate skill levels. Kyle said he contacted the CYO board and would like to set up a meeting to discuss how we can together, better basketball in our community. He would like to suggest having one large tryout with the top 10 placed on suburban, the next 10 placed with CYO and the remainder registering for Recreational.

>Chris stated that was the procedure in Belchertown for as long as he could remember.

>Kyle said CYO tries to place all the participants who register on teams and most of their divisions now have two teams. Kyle said he also has plans to meet with Gary and discuss capping private organizations in town. Kyle shared his frustrations that if someone in the community does not agree with the Rec dept. policies they decide to go private.

>Tilo said the town cannot limit private organizations. The answer is to work together with private organizations.

>Bill recalled a policy from years past, private organizations can be limited by the number of teams

>Kyle stated he is reviewing policies however it has been a complicated process with many policies written by the commission and are now void. He will have policies prepared and will share them at the next meeting.

>Chris asked what the rule is regarding playing on both a suburban and CYO team

>Kyle said the Rec Dept. does not recommend they play both leagues

>Kyle said the replacement plaque at Austin has arrived and will be cemented in, in the spring

>Next Recreation Committee meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Conference Room.

Nancy made a motion to adjourn. *Tilo seconded, motion passed 5-0-0.*

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.