

**Amherst Leisure Services and Supplemental Education Commission Minutes
Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 7:30 p.m. Community Room, Police Station**

Present: Stan Ziomek, Chair, Peter Blier, Vice Chair, Alan Bonneau, Maryanna Whittemore, AB Winograd, Linda Chalfant, LSSE Director, Alisa Brewer, Select Board Liaison

Absent: James Patulak

Call to Order: S. Ziomek called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

October 12, 2011 Minutes

P. Blier moved and M. Whittemore seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. The vote was unanimous.

November 3, 2011 Minutes

Maryanna Whittemore moved and AB Winograd seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. The vote was unanimous.

November 29, 2011 Minutes

P. Blier moved and AB Winograd seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. The vote was unanimous.

War Memorial Pool

Status of Bids- L. Chalfant reported that Town Manager, John Musante was calling a staff meeting for December 15 to discuss the pool renovation. Guilford Mooring, DPW Superintendent, will be attending. The Town Manager reiterated the need to get the project moving, meet the June deadline and fulfill Town Meeting's wishes. To date DPW has not advertised the renovation bids.

Pool Opening Subcommittee- P. Blier volunteered to help with this subcommittee. AB Winograd suggested that a member of the DPW be included.

FY 13 Budget Update

LSSE Fee Subsidy- the Town Manager is not optimistic about providing full tax support funding for the LSSE Department which included additional fee subsidy and additional tax support for a lower administrative reimbursement. A Department cut may be necessary. The Commission suggested that a letter be sent to the Town Manager with the LSSE Commission's concerns. A. Bonneau moved and M. Whittemore seconded that a letter be drafted. The vote was unanimous.

Program Ranking Criteria- The LSSE Director reviewed the criteria that had been established and used in the past to prioritize LSSE programs.

Director's Report

Goals and Objectives FY 13- L. Chalfant stated that in the past the LSSE Department programs were viewed as a strength and one of the best departments, programmatically, in the state. The parks, fields and facilities were always seen as a weakness, needing further support and less strong than the programs. The last 5 years of staff budget cuts have placed the LSSE programs in a weakened position and any further cuts would challenge our ability to provide high quality programs and services to the community. A leading goal for FY 13 is to curtail further department staffing cuts.

Commission Input-Commissioners asked that a meeting/forum be scheduled this spring to bring attention to the drop in enrollment within the girls' sports programs. A tentative date of Wednesday, March 28th was suggested. AB Winograd suggested that the Commission review and brainstorm potential new program promotional strategies to reach out to community members.

Parks and Recreation Areas Update

Storm Clean Up - L. Chalfant reported that she walked the Mill River Recreation Area and consulted with Alan Snow, Tree and Grounds Director regarding the storm clean up. Most of the tree debris is cleaned up at Kiwanis and Groff Parks. At Groff Park there's more work to do near the river bed. At Mill River a fair amount of the downfall has been chipped but there is still further work before the park is completely cleaned up. Some of the hanging tree limbs need pruning and some trees will be cut if they are damaged beyond repair.

Mill River and Groff Park River Banks- L. Chalfant reported that significant over wash and bank erosion occurred at both parks especially Mill River.

Reseeding Plans for Fields- According to Alan Snow, Plum Brook will be reseeded; Community field and all the other athletic fields at the H.S. will be reseeded except the football practice field. Steve Feltovic was hired as the new Parks Forman.

Mill River Pool Review

Attendance and Budget-L. Chalfant provided the daily attendance and admission service levels for the 2010 and 2011 outdoor pool seasons at Mill River Recreation Area.

Five Year Capital Plan Review

Alan Bonneau moved and M. Whittemore seconded that the 2013 Capital budgets be approved. The vote was unanimous.

Cherry Hill Update

L. Chalfant reported Winter Fest is scheduled for Sunday, February 11th and planning meetings are underway. Funds from Winter Fest will benefit the Cherry Hill Golf Course as that was a change made in the FY 12 budget. The course is closed for the season. Gift certificates and memberships have been advertised and are for sale at LSSE.

Set Future Meetings

January 11, February 8, March 14 and April 11 at 7:30 were suggested as dates for the next Commission meetings.

Adjournment

The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Handouts Provided:

Agenda

Minutes, November 29, November 3, October 12, 2011

Copy of the Commission's, November 3rd 2011 Memorandum to the Conservation Commission

Form 1 Capital Request LSSE 2013-2017

Form 1 Capital Request Cherry Hill 2013-2017

Form 1 Capital Request Pools 2013-2017

Admission Service Levels FY 11

Admission Service Levels FY 12