

LSSE Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday , October 9, 2013, 4 .00 p.m.
Town Room, Town Hall

Present: Stan Ziomek, Chair, Alan Bonneau, Vice Chair, Jim Brissette, Jon Foster, Anna-Beth Winograd,

Absent: Maryanna Whittemore

Guests: John Musante, Town Manager, Dave Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair, S. Ziomek at 4:04 p.m.

Parks and Fields Discussion :

S. Ziomek raised the question of how the staffing level changed when the Parks Department became the Tree and Grounds Division.

A. Bonneau asked why the Town was using Totman Pool at the University for a fee and not using the Middle School Pool. J. Musante suggested the Community Fields Meetings with the Schools that used to happen might be a good place to start this discussion again.

J. Brissette wanted to know why Amherst fields were at the bottom when compared to the fields at surrounding towns.

J. Foster asked why the Community Field Wading Pool was not opened this summer and if there were consequences for this. J. Musante offered that Standard Operating Procedures, SOP's, should be adopted with a broad base of support from a group such as a Community Fields Committee. J. Musante said he would convene such a meeting and he would welcome having LSSE Commission representation at a future Community Fields Meeting.

J. Foster asked what the proper tax support should be for LSSE. J. Musante stated a Commission policy statement about what the tax support should be would be useful in answering this question.

J. Musante offered that a new recreation center building is not in the future for LSSE but reusing a school such as a portion of the Middle School would be, particularly with usage from the pool and gym end. J. Musante stated more Fields Master planning is needed.

J. Brissette stated a multipurpose field with an artificial turf area is needed given maintenance issues and for extending use.

J. Musante reported he was looking at locating a community health center in the Bangs Center in a portion of the area that LSSE was now using and that the East Street School would be renovated at a relatively modest cost.

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J. Brissette asked what the budget would be for renovating East Street School. J. Musante said R. Bohonowicz would be bringing proposals to the JCPC in early January and that between now and New Year's Day decisions would be made about capital items.

J. Musante stated the Commission could be helpful in thinking about what the fees should be for LSSE.

J. Foster stated that we recently served 800 with fee subsidies and this was a huge increase from previous years. At the same time our fees have increased.

AB Winograd questioned why the Community Field Committee had not been formed to plan improvements and master plan this park area. J. Musante stated he would appoint this committee and move it forward.

Agenda Setting and Adjournment.

The Commission set Tuesday, October 22nd for the next Meeting.

AB Winograd moved the meeting be adjourned. A. Bonneau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Handouts:

October 9, 2013 Agenda

Amended and approved on October 30, 2013