

LSSE Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 27, 2016
Amherst Leisure Services Conference Room

Present: Chair, Angela Mills, Vice Chair, Jon Foster, Jim Brissette, Becky Demling, Nate Budington, Meg Rosa, Linda Chalfant, Director

Visitors- Dave Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager, Rich Ferro, Amherst Regional High School Athletic Director

Minutes of 3-24-16

M. Rosa moved and B. Demling seconded that the minutes from February 29, 2016 be accepted. The motion was unanimous with 6-0 in favor of the motion.

Public Comment- None

CPAC Report, *Jim Brissette*-J. Brissette reported the Community Preservation Committee, CPA, has had one meeting since the LSSE Commission's last meeting and report. The CPA article for the Modernization of Groff Park will be coming forward and D. Ziomek, L. Chalfant and J. Brissette will be on hand to answer questions however it may be helpful to have individuals and families with children come to speak or provide a show of support.

Grants and Committee Updates from *Dave Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager* - D. Ziomek explained the breakdown of the Groff Park Modernization funding requests into two phases. Phase #1 CPAC- covers spray park, the design, a new roof for the pavilion and ADA access.

Phase #2 PARC Grant will be a \$450, 000 grant request to create a playground and a shade structure pavilion.

D. Ziomek stressed the need to hold public meetings and to place the Groff Park Modernization Project consistently on the LSSE Commission's future monthly meeting agendas. He also suggested surveying park attendees. Commissioners suggested gathering feedback at an upcoming Principal's Coffee, at Amherst Youth Soccer Association soccer game, etc. Social Justice Communities to outreach too include, apartment complexes on East Hadley Road, Rolling Green, Pomeroy Court, Butternut Complex.

D. Ziomek also updated the Commission on the plans to improve the North Amherst playing field. A Conservation Commission approval will be requested on April 27, and then project goes to the Planning Board and the Design Review Board. Commissioners may want to consider attending the Planning Board Meeting. Improvements to the Mill River Baseball Field are expected with these dates. Bids due May 20th, the project is expected to take 4-6 weeks to completed.

D. Ziomek also updated the Commission on the Wildwood School Project and its potential implications for the Hawthorne Meadow Fields to become a Town of Amherst Wildwood School Field which would be built with school improvement funds.

D. Ziomek reported on the status of the Community Field Committee, (Town Center Recreation Working Group). B. Demling stated it may be useful to have an inventory of all of the groups that use the school and Town fields. The group considered how to better articulate a vision for shared resources. D. Ziomek and Rich Ferro would be meeting with school officials in the near future to consider collaborations.

The Commission also discussed the Mill River Park Pavilion reservation process with D. Ziomek. D. Ziomek mentioned the pavilion process could become centralized along with other permitting processes. More discussion will occur with the LSSE Director, the Inspections Director, and other prior to any changes. Concerns were raised about the potential loss of the many informal, small gatherings that take place at the pavilions if the reservation process becomes lengthy, costly and centered completely on online access. The pavilion reservation program brought in \$15,000 in revenue last year for LSSE.

Youth Sports Discussion with Rich Ferro, Amherst High School Athletic Director- R. Ferro provided the Commission with examples of why he believes it would be beneficial for Amherst's Youth Sports organizations to be under the LSSE umbrella. Centralizing these programs occurs in many other local communities and in Amherst such a move could ease sign up confusion, provide fee subsidy access, eliminate some expenses, and further diversity. Numbers of athletes have dropped and diversity and enrollment particularly in girls programs is lower.

An informational summit for all youth sports leaders was suggested for Sunday, July 17th from 5-7 p.m. This would allow for a discussion about how to bring everyone together. Data, fees, the pluses and minuses of this plan would be outlined for sports leaders to consider.

Pavilion Reservations- Program Review

L. Chalfant provided input on the pavilion reservation process along with handouts. The program was discussed briefly as the topic was also discussed during D. Ziomek's visit.

Director's Report

The Director reported on the late spring enrollment and provided handout reports for the Cherry Hill Golf Course activity and the LSSE activity.

Agenda Setting and Next Meeting

The next LSSE Commission meeting was set for Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at LSSE's office.

Adjournment

J. Fuller moved the meeting be adjourned. J. Brissette seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of adjournment.