

LSSE Commission Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2016
7:30 pm
Bangs Community Center, Large Activity Room
Voted as amended on 7-11-16

Present: Commission Members: Meg Rosa, Nate Budington, Becky Demling, Jon Foster, Jim Brissette, Angela Mills, Barb Bilz, Acting Director, Guests: Andrew Steinberg, Select Board, and David Ziomek, Asst. Town Manager

John Foster called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

On June 16, 2016, N. Budington moved to accept the May 19, 2016 minutes as amended. J. Brissette seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Public Comment and Discussion of Groff Park Proposed Renovations

There were no members of the public who attended the meeting.

Community Concerns:

- Age appropriate features;
- Simple features should be considered as well as interesting and interactive ones;
- Concerns about who would police it, will the police do more patrols of the park;
- Adult supervision is suggested;
- Areas should be separated into older vs younger areas.

D. Ziomek commented that the spray park would be operated on a timer.

D. Ziomek reported that a \$450,000 - \$500,000 PARC Grant to the State will be submitted in mid-July. It will include a proposal and conceptual drawings/plans for the playground, shade areas, possible pavilion, accessible pathways, etc. The design process will start in December, 2016. Cost of the design will be between \$30,000 and \$35,000 and professional design is an essential part of this process.

J. Brissette asked if the design could be flowing rather than linear. D. Ziomek stated that it could be possible but that it would be left up to the professional designer. Other issues that may have an impact on the design would be ADA access. The Town's Access Committee would also review the plan.

J. Fuller asked D. Ziomek what he needed from the Commission.

D. Ziomek provided the following needs:

- Letter from the Commission supporting the PARC Grant;
- Possible recruitment of volunteers to help with some of the construction;
- Possible involvement in garden improvements at the park.

Community Preservation Act Committee Update

J. Brissette reported the CPAC is working on developing a plan to evaluate proposals so that they can better set priorities, criteria, and plan in a more effective manner. He welcomed input from members via email.

D. Ziomek reported that the amount of money distributed to each category is fairly even. What is missing now is an inventory of what is needed and priorities.

LSSE Commission Vacancy

There is one vacancy currently on the Commission. D. Ziomek stated that the Interim Town Manager's goal is to fill all Committee vacancies before he departs. D. Ziomek stated that interested applicants complete the Citizen Activity Form and get it to the Town Manger as soon as possible. Commission members eligible for reappointment need to email the Town Manager if they are interested in another term.

CPA Project and Grant Updates

D. Ziomek reported that the first meeting of the Downtown Amherst Recreation Working Group will take place on Thursday, July 28 at 7:00 pm. Their first charge will be to inventory all of the town recreation assets, areas and to set priorities. Usage numbers will be extremely important.

D. Ziomek stated that Hawthorne monies will be banked for recreation even if the Wildwood school is expanded.

N. Budington reported that the Mill River Baseball Fields will cost more to renovate than the funds provided by CPAC. Therefore the first priority will be to work on Field #2 and to do it right. Field 1 will be addressed at a later date. He will discuss this change with CPAC at their next meeting. The original budget was \$127,000 and the new estimate is \$140,000.

B. Demling stated it is not about having more fields but about using what we have more efficiently. She suggested break-away fencing as an option.

D. Ziomek reported that the North Common received \$190,000 from Town Meeting. Two design processes are on the table.

J. Brissette suggested that the Commission should be involved in the design process with the Historical Commission and that L. Chalfant should connect with the Historical Commission to make sure we are part of the discussion.

D. Ziomek reported that work has begun on improvements to the playing field west of the North Amherst Library. In addition to improvements to the field there will be a crushed stone parking lot, safety fencing, solar powered lights, picnic area and possibly a portable backstop. The Rotary design at that intersection may have some impact on the field but that is yet to be determined.

Agenda Setting Next Meeting

Review PARC Grant Proposal
Review Survey Feedback
Report on Input Meeting related to Groff Park

Next Meeting: July 12, 7:00 p.m., Middle School Conference Room (Commission members were in unanimous agreement that they would like to meet earlier than 7:30 p.m.)

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.