

Chichester Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Minutes 2/9/2022

Present: Zack Boyajian [Chair], Ansel Sanborn [Secretary], Tom Jameson, Mark Thomas

Absent: Ewen MacKinnon, Robyn Eldredge

1] Chairman Zack Boyajian called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM at the Town Offices, 54 Main Street, and called the roll of the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) members.

2] After review and minor corrections, a MOTION to approve the Minutes of 1/13/2021 as amended was made by Ansel and seconded by Tom. All in favor, the MOTION passes. Zack approved and will sign the revised minutes.

3] Zack attended the joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and Town Budget Committee (TBC) on 2/8/22. In their effort to minimize property tax increases, the joint boards proposed to level fund budgets. To accomplish the work intended for 2022, PRC had presented a budget of \$4500. The joint board supported a level funded budget of \$1500. with no additional deposits to the Recreation Capital Reserve Account.

Discussion of the smaller budget and the work that could be accomplished in 2022 dominated the remainder of the meeting.

Following discussion, in addition to normal mowing and utility payments, a list of priorities was created: removal of problem trees, completion of upper field leveling and reseeding, improvement of park entrance (including replacement of the Route 28 park sign and replacement of the parking lot wooden guard rail with split rail fence), replacement of the upper field dugout roofs, replacement of the pavilion roof, and trail improvements.

Since no deposits are planned for the Carpenter Park Capital Reserve Account (CPCRA) this year, with approval of the BOS, funds could be withdrawn for needed projects. Park entrance improvements and dugout roof replacement materials are

possible candidates for CPCRF monies. Clark Thorne, President of the Chichester Youth Association (CYA), plans to contact Merrill Construction regarding completion of the leveling and reseeded of the upper field. Pending this discussion, scheduling of the use of the upper field by other users should be suspended.

Due to safety concerns, problem trees near Bear Hill Road may be eligible for inclusion in the Road Agent's tree removal budget. The pavilion is a resource used by many town groups for many purposes. As such, the repair/ replacement of its roof may be eligible for town building funds subject to BOS approval. Improved trail maintenance has been the goal of a future park maintenance vehicle. Should the Fire Department be successful in acquiring a new forest utility vehicle, PRC might inherit their current vehicle for park maintenance.

Implementation of this approach is complicated and could require agreement of PRC, BOS, CYA, and the Road Agent. Also, volunteer resources to participate in the work are limited and divided with work on the Library to School trail planned for this summer. Frank Harrison may be able to provide some labor for a fee through his high school ropes class.


Discussion of priorities, approach, and issues are planned for our meeting of March 9. The consensus of PRC will guide the scope of our efforts this year and outreach to other groups.

4] Having no further business, a MOTION to adjourn was made at 7:45 PM by Ansel and seconded by Mark. The MOTION passed with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Ansel Sanborn, Secretary

Not Approved Until Signed

Approved:


3/9/2022