

Chichester Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Minutes 1/12/2022

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

Absent: Robyn Eldredge, Ewen MacKinnon

Public: Clark Thorne

1] Chairman Zack Boyajian called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM at the town offices and called the roll of the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) members.

2] Clark Thorne, President of the Chichester Youth Association (CYA) attended the meeting to discuss issues of common interest between CYA and the PRC.

Zack outlined PRC priorities and the proposed PRC budget for 2022. Maintenance/ replacement of the roofs of the upper field dugouts and the pavilion, capping the well beside Bear Hill Road, repairing the park sign along Route 28, repairing the wood guard rail next to the parking lot, removing problem trees, and improving the park entrance are all priorities. Longer term goals include the purchase of a utility vehicle for park maintenance and more major park improvements such as the expansion of the basketball court.

Clark explained that the highest priority of CYA is providing excellent sports programs for Chichester's youth. The success of these programs depends on dedicated volunteers and well-maintained facilities. As with many town organizations, the number of available volunteers has not kept up with needs. Funding for field maintenance has been impacted by the inability to hold their traditional fundraisers due to COVID. Despite these challenges, CYA with the help of Merrill Construction was able to regrade and reseed a large portion of the upper athletic fields this past summer. Though the baseball and softball programs were small, the youth soccer program had a strong season.

The group then brainstormed how CYA and PRC could improve our coordination of efforts. Discussion of funding for roof repairs should continue with the Board of Selectmen (BOS). The idea of installing metal roofing like the roof of the Safety Building should be discussed. Clark will investigate finding volunteers to perform the roofing. Clark will contact Merrill Construction regarding continuing grading and seeding of the upper fields.

As more groups beyond CYA have asked to use the park, better coordination of scheduling is needed. A single calendar accurately showing all park usage would help.

Clark will discuss the PRC information with CYA and the discussion of priorities, coordination, and schedules will continue in February.

3] After review, a MOTION to approve the minutes of 12/8/21 was made by Tom and seconded by Mark. The MOTION passed with all in favor and Zack approved and signed the minutes.

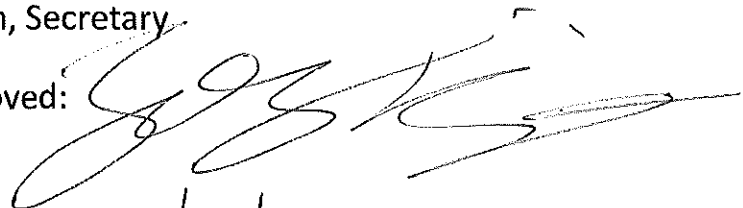
4] Ansel drafted the report of PRC for 2021 for submission to the BOS for inclusion in the Town Report. PRC members made several suggestions for clarification and improvement which will be included, sent to Zack, and forwarded to the BOS.

5] Having no further business, a MOTION to adjourn was made at 8:00 PM by Ansel and seconded by Tom. The MOTION passed with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Ansel Sanborn, Secretary

Not Approved Until Signed

Approved:


2/9/2022