

Town of Dartmouth

400 Slocum Road
Dartmouth, MA 02747
(508) 910-1812
www.town.dartmouth.ma.us



Department
of
Parks & Recreation

Timothy J. Lancaster, Director

Sherri L. Tetrault, Chair
Joseph Vieira, Vice-Chair
James C. Bosworth
Joan Britto
James A. Vieira

Parks & Rec Board
1/24/23
Approved

Minutes

January 24, 2023
5:30 P.M. Meeting

Members Present: James Bosworth, Sherri Tetrault, James Vieira (departed at 6:39 P.M.),
Joseph Vieira and Timothy Lancaster
Members Absent: Joan Britto

Minutes:

Motion made and seconded to approve the December 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Voted 4-0-0

New Business:

Parsons Reserve

Nick Wildman joined DNRT as the Executive Director this past July. He met with the Board to discuss the annual daffodil event at Parsons Reserve which directly impacts Russells Mills Landing. The event draws approximately 12,000 visitors in a one month span between April and May. There is always a parking issue especially for those wishing to use the boat launch area. Approximately 6 DNRT rangers will be on staff from 8:30-4 to keep order at the fields and to assist with parking. The Board would like DNRT to just utilize the parking area parallel to Horseneck Road and to have the spaces marked with chalk. Also a staff member should be in the lot at all times during the busy hours. A police detail should be present as well on the weekends. Mr. Wildman stated he would put a plan together and go over it with the Director prior to the season opening. Mr. Wildman also asked permission to place a portable restroom behind the existing restroom at the landing. The Board agreed to the request.

FY24 Budget

The FY24 Budget was discussed. Increases included: minimum wage for seasonal staff, overtime budget, police, postage, fuel and equipment line item expenses. A memo was attached explaining the

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need to reinstate the Park Foreman position. Also included at the request of Fincom was a Budget Summary. The revolving caps for Cemetery remain the same but the Recreation/Bucket cap will be increased from \$185,000 to \$250,000. The Director stated that the main topic of his meeting with the Finance Committee will be the Foreman position. Motion made and seconded to approve the FY24 Operating Budget as presented. Voted 3-0-0

FY24 Capital Improvement requests include a replacement SUV, Front Mount Mower and Jones Park restroom floor resurfacing totaling \$77,450. Motion made and seconded to approve CIP as written. Voted 3-0-0

Beach Sticker Overview

Beach sticker purchases will only be available online. The Parks & Recreation office will be open for other business on Tuesdays and Fridays. A seasonal staff person will be present daily for phone calls, deposits and online sticker processing. Mail-in sticker applications were discussed but not finalized. Motion made and seconded to move to all online sticker purchasing. If mail-in does move forward, there will be an extra processing charge. Voted 3-0-0

Jones Beach Water Quality

Chris Michaud the Health Director has been in contact with the City of New Bedford and Mass DEP in regards to a Combined Sewer Overflow discharge from the City of New Bedford's collection system. This contaminates Jones Beach every time it rains. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection states to "Avoid contact with these water bodies for 48 hours after the discharge or overflow ceases due to increased health risks from bacteria and other pollutants". The Board of Health posts signs at the beach after every occurrence. Patrons are informed by the Lifeguard that there is no swimming, but they don't always listen. So the issue becomes whether or not the Lifeguard enters the water if that person requires assistance. Motion made and seconded to not staff Lifeguards at Jones Park when the beach is closed for swimming due to poor water quality. Voted 3-0-0

Director's Report

>The Director updated the Board in regards to his injury. He is currently working on light duty while awaiting an appointment with a neuro surgeon after having an MRI.

>Ms. Bermudez sent a request to use Apponagansett Park for an annual Walk for Hunger. The event will take place on May 7 at 9:00 A.M. Motion made and seconded to approve the use of Apponagansett Park for the Walk for Hunger. Voted 3-0-0

>A resident sent a request to work with Fairhaven Recreation to allow Dartmouth residents a season pass to their indoor facility. The Board did not want to enter into such an agreement as they are working on Dartmouth's own indoor facility.

Old Business:

Rec Center Update

The Owner's Project Manager advertisement for the Rec Center had three responses. The Town Administrator will assemble a group to review each applicant. A joint meeting of the Parks & Rec Board with the Select Board will then be scheduled to award the bid so the project can move forward.

Dias Landing Maritime Center

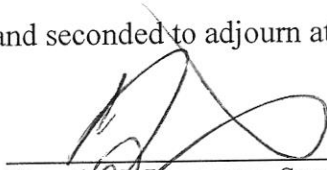
Mr. Kevin Murphy, a member of the Waterways Committee attended the meeting. The State has approved a million dollar grant for the Waterways Commission to build a Maritime Center at Dias Landing with an additional \$200,000 from Community Preservation provided that an MOU be established with the Parks & Recreation Department in regards to the abutting Apponagansett Park. The MOU was sent to the Parks & Rec Board back in October. The Board quickly scheduled a meeting to review it at that time and sent back suggestions in which there has not been any communication from Waterways since. Mr. Murphy reviewed the language of the MOU with the Board offering his suggestions. The Board did not want to make any changes but asked that Mr. Murphy review the MOU at the February 7 Waterways Commission meeting with its members and send back a counter proposal to the Parks & Recreation Board.

Ongoing Staff Issues

The Director and Rec Coordinator recently met with the Denise the Human Resources Director to discuss the hiring process of the seasonal employees. She has been great to work with in helping to streamline the lengthy paperwork process. This includes no longer requiring physicals and drug screens and applications are completed online then emailed to a designated account.

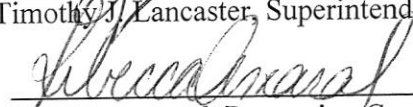
Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 7:19 P.M. Voted 3-0-0

ATTEST:



Timothy J. Lancaster, Superintendent

Transcribed by:



Rebecca Amaral, Recreation Coordinator