

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, June 21, 2023  
Town Hall, Matthew Thornton Meeting Room – 7:00p.m.

Meeting opened: 7:03p.m.

Attendees: Matt Casparius – Director; Mackenzie Murphy- Town Council; Tracy McGraw – Chair; Rick Greenier – MYA; Maureen Hall – Seniors; Laurie Rothhaus - School Board; David Shaw – Member; Phil Przybyszewski - Member; Laura Jaynes – Member;

Absent: Christine Lavoie – Vice Chair; Michelle Creswell – Secretary

Approval of Minutes from May 2023 meeting: Motion/Maureen Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup>/Laura Jaynes (6-0-2)

New Business: New Proposed Addition to Chapter 142

Matt began the discussion on ideas for changes and additions to Chapter 142 (Parks & Recreation Ordinances

- (a) Metal Detectors shall be permitted at all parks under the jurisdiction of the Parks & Recreation department, athletic fields, beaches, boat launches and playgrounds unless otherwise posted
- (b) Money or items found who value is in excess of \$5.00 shall be reported to the Parks & Recreation Department

**DIGGING**

- (a) Digging shall be permitted on sand beaches with all resulting holes completely filled in. Digging holes to a depth greater than 12 inches shall not be permitted. No digging is permitted at Watson Park in any areas of the Park
- (b) Digging and other ground disturbances shall not be permitted on any athletic field or playgrounds
- (c) Any damage caused by the individual must be immediately reported to the Parks & Recreation Department and individual may be responsible for paying for any repairs

**DISCUSSION:** do not post negatively,

Old Business: Merrimack Dog Park – discussed another clean up date, for participants to clean up after pups, bring water, do not leave empty containers behind

Dog Park Fund Balance - \$1,693.59

Director's Report

Summer Camp Update:

- Camp opened for summer on 6/21/23; there were some cancellations; need to consider increasing the cancellation fee
- American Camp Association Accreditation Visit – take place 7/11/23

#### Upcoming Special Events:

- Summer Concerts in the Park – Wednesdays, June 21 – August 16; sponsored by Friends of the Library
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festivities
  - Monday, 7/3 – Patriotic Concert in the Park with Merrimack Concert Association – 6:30pm
  - Tuesday, 7/4
    - Sparkler 5k with Merrimack Road Runners Boosters Club – 8:00pm
    - Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast – High School – 8-11am
    - Annual Holiday Parade – expecting total of 70-80 floats - cannot throw candy, but can hand out – have to be registered and given the rules upon registration
    - Fireworks at Merrimack High School starting 9:15pm – DJ Darren Roy in High School parking lot from 7-9:15pm – working on Food Trucks
- Movie Nights in the Park – Wassermann Park
  - Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> – Top Gun Maverick – 8:30pm
  - Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> – Minions Rise of Gru – 7:30pm
  - Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Puss in Boots: Last Wish – 6:30pm

Capital Improvement Projects – none of the ones submitted by Parks & Recreation was funded this year. Deadline for submission for next year is July 21, 2023. We will be resubmitting again.

- Athletic Field Development for 2 Fields at Peason Road/Greenfields Farms - \$810,000
- Road Repairs for Wassermann Park - \$250,000
- Wassermann Park Beach Renovations/ADA compliance – must complete within 2 years due to permitting; if not completed, must go through permitting process again - \$100,000

#### Organization Reports:

MYA: this is the slower period, soft ball, baseball; selected to host Cal Ripkin Tournament 6/22/23 – 6/28/23 – statewide tournament

Senior Citizens Club – Danvers – “Stayin Alive”, meal included; Barry Gibb stand in, beautiful venue; planning more trips; Meals On Wheels – sandwiches 1 x per month, use card and pay tip at Village Eatery

School Board – happy with the after-school program idea with Thornton’s Ferry; can obtain High School credit; hired Harley Hall – job is going to be to help get credit for extended learning; School Board Budget/Planning will be in the parade for 4<sup>th</sup> of July

Student Representative – Matt Brown will start in August

Town Council – retreat was on 6/21 from 9-4pm and next meeting is 6/22/23; will be voting on new members – Josh and Matt

#### Lake Naticook Conservation Association

- Protects the lake
- Next meeting is 6/28/23
- 42 residents on the lake
- Milfoil is everywhere, being marked with buoy and the State will remove

Next Meeting: August 16, 2023 – no meeting in July

Adjourn: 8:13 pm (8-0-0)