

**Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, 08.17.22**  
**Matthew Thornton Meeting Room Town Hall**  
**7:00pm**

**Attendees:** Tracy McGraw, Christine Lavoie, Laura Jaynes, Phil Przybyszewski, Rick Greenier – MYA, Naomi Halter – School Board Representative, Lon Woods - Town Council, Camryn Gaumont – School Representative and Michelle Creswell

**Parks and Recreation Staff:** Matt Casparius, Director

**Absent:** none

**Excused:** David Shaw, Julie Poole, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Jonathan Barkley – Alternate MYA and Laurie Rothaus – Alternate School Board Representative

**Public:** none

**Start time:** 7:00pm

**Open Meeting/Introduction**

**Approval of minutes from June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

- Phil Przybyszewski made the motion to accept the June meeting minutes
- Laura Jaynes 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- 5-0-4 motion passed (abstained: Phil Przybyszewski, Rick Greenier, Christine Lavoie and Michelle Creswell)

**New Business:**

- Annual Election of Officers
  - Christine Lavoie nominated Tracy McGraw for Chair
  - Lon Woods 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination
  - 9-0-0 motion passed for Tracy McGraw for Chair
  - Laura Jaynes nominated Christine Lavoie for Co-Chair
  - Phil Przybyszewski 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination
  - 9-0-0 motion passed for Christine Lavoie for Co-Chair
  - Laura Jaynes nominated Michelle Creswell for Secretary
  - Christine Lavoie 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination
  - 9-0-0 motion passed for Michelle Creswell for Secretary
- Discussion of change September Meeting Date
  - Moved to 09.28.22 and downstairs in the Town Hall
- Review of Capital Improvement Projects for FY 2023-2024 - Matt Casparius
  - Greenfields Farms Athletic Fields – see attachment for proposed soccer fields and parking
  - Wasserman Park Improvements
    - Park Road repairs and parking
      - Part 1 - widen road by 20 feet near P&R office going towards tennis courts, turning and going back up toward function hall/day camp office and estimate of \$200,000

- Part 2 – add additional 30 spot parking lot below volleyball/picnic area and above basketball upper court area and estimate of \$30,000
- Rick Greenier asked if the pavement should extend anymore, and Matt Casparius said that the rest of the road is fine and doesn't need to be paved
- Christine Lavoie asked if we should have more speed bumps or make the current ones bigger
- Lon Woods asked about the exact location of the proposed parking lot and Matt Casparius said that is the most level spot for it and no trees
- Football Field irrigation
  - Would help dust clouds and health concerns due to the dust clouds when it's so dry and is estimate of \$50,000 and will estimate \$60,000 in the budget due to any possible rise in cost
- Possible Phase 4 beach renovation
  - Proposed for FY 2024-2025 and estimate of \$100,000
  - Area near stairs to be ADH assessable
- FY 2025-2026
  - Proposed lights at some fields and estimate of \$390,000
  - Finish basement of Function Hall at Wasserman Park and estimate of \$100,000
- FY 2026 – 2027
  - Placeholder for Skateboard Park and estimate of \$175,000
- FY 2027 - 2028
  - Lights at the Dog Park at Wasserman Park and estimate of \$20,000
  - Generator for the Function Hall at Wasserman Park estimate of \$25,000

#### **Old Business:**

- Update from Merrimack Dog Park - Christine Lavoie
  - Dog Park Fund Balance – \$1,693.59
  - Type of respiratory virus going around and the ask is to please keep your dog home if experiencing any respiratory issues
  - Looking for volunteers for fundraising events you can reach out to friendsofthemerrimackdogpark on Facebook or Matt Casparius
  - Donations for baggies for dog waste are always welcome
  - Donations of the little blue pools are always welcome
  - Proposed project for a shade area for any scout project

#### **Director's Report:** Matt Casparius

- Summer Camp Update
  - Running a week later than normal so currently still going and last day is 08.26.22
  - Highest enrollment ever since camp has been open
  - Camp registration will go up next year to account for raising costs of staff
- Report on Summer Events
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July – went well
  - Summer Concert Series – went on through the summer and went well
  - Movie Nights in the Park – 3 movies have been shown so far due to weather

- National Night Out – 500+ people with 24 registered groups and went well
- Updates on Watson Park
  - Access to the Souhegan River – gates were opened around last week of July and will remain open unless any reasons force it to close again
  - Construction behind the Park – Monday through Friday and will be there until around 1<sup>st</sup> of September/or is completed
- Upcoming Special Events
  - Summer Movies in the Park - Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30pm - Sing 2
- Miscellaneous Updates
  - NHRPA – Matt Casparius was recently appointed President of NHRPA

**Organization Reports:**

- Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall – not present
- MYA - Rick Greenier
  - Spring baseball, softball and lacrosse are currently in session
  - Football, soccer and fall baseball registration is open
  - merrimackyouthassociation.com
- Town Council – Lon Woods
  - Upcoming Town Council Meeting: 08.18.22
- School Board – Naomi Halter
  - All Day Goal Setting Meeting took place and discussed the direction of the district
  - Upcoming School Board Meeting: 08.23.22
  - School Starts: 08.31.22
- School Representative – Camryn Gaumont
  - Students mentioned that the Wasserman Park basketball court lights were very useful, and Matt Casparius stated that the pole that had the lights was on the ground and had to be removed due to live wires

**Comments from the Public:** none

**Comments from the Committee:** none

**Future Meeting Dates**

- September 28<sup>th</sup>

**Adjourn at 8:13pm**

- Christine Lavoie made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13pm
- Lon Woods 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- 9-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Creswell