

**Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, 08.18.21**  
**Matthew Thornton Meeting Room**  
**7:00pm**

Attendees: Laura Jaynes, Christine Lavoie, Tracy McGraw, David Shaw, Jamie Devlin, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Rick Greenier – MYA, Lon Woods - Town Council and Michelle Creswell  
Parks and Recreation Staff: Matt Casparius, Director

Absent: none

Excused: Julie Poole, Laurie Rothhaus – School Board Representative, Shannon Barnes – Alternate School Board Representative, Jonathan Barkley – Alternate MYA and TBD – Student Representative  
Public: none

Start time: 7:01pm

1 Open Meeting/Introduction

2 Approval of minutes from:

- June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021
  - David Shaw made the motion to accept the June meeting minutes
  - Tracy McGraw 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
  - 6-0-3 motion passed (Lon Woods, Christine Lavoie and Rick Greenier abstained)

3 Old Business - Christine Lavoie

- Update from Merrimack Dog Park
  - Dog Park Fund Balance – \$763.59
  - 15 Melanson CPA employees volunteered their time and looks great
  - Tracy McGraw stated that Mosquito Joe will have another treatment scheduled for Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Please don't leave water jugs behind when you leave as there is water at the park now
  - Donations for baggies for dog waste is always welcome

4 New Business - Matt Casparius

- 2021 – 2022 Goal Setting Discussion - For next year's budget (FY 22 – 23) which means funding available July 1, 2022 – next summer
  - Roof Replacement on Cabins 12, 3/4 and Boathouse with an initial estimate of \$15,800
  - Cabin 9/10 started leaking this year
    - Initially 9/10 was going to be torn down, but it's not now so we need to fix the roof so this will get revised to \$22,300 although may have to push one of these out a year
  - MYA has requested irrigation to the Football practice Field at Wasserman Park.
    - \$62,000 is the starting estimate and Matt Casparius meet with a contractor to get a formal estimate in early September
- FY 2023 – 2024

- Because of the coming replacement of our current docks at Wasserman Park, we are going to be able to utilize part of one of our docks to create a fishing dock outside of the swim area
- Tentative placeholder of \$750,000 for Athletic Field Development to build 2 fields at Greenfield Farms on Pearson Road
  - This still needs to be brought to Town Council
- FY 2024 – 2025
  - Replacement of Lights at Martel Field – estimated cost of \$265,000 and are 20 years old
    - Part of the issue is that the existing lights are 20 feet shorter than they should be which creates a hazardous playing condition
    - New lights would be 60 feet and modern lighting would provide better coverage and visibility and reduce ambient light off the field
- FY 2025 – 2026
  - Earmark of \$100,000 to refinish the 2500 square feet of unfinished space basement of the Function Hall
    - Create 4 to 5 good sized meeting rooms
- Additional items to consider adding to the budget:
  - Paving the Wasserman Park Roadway that is slowly deteriorating
  - Skateboard Park and eventually replacing the equipment
    - Currently on a year-to-year agreement with the School District
    - Discussions were held a few years ago about potential locations and the best option at the time was at near Bishop Field adjacent to the field
    - Wooden substructure that could not be disassembled and reassembled and to build a new park with modern equipment the estimate is \$85,000 - \$100,000
  - Lighting at the Dog Park so that the park could be used in the evening hours – estimate TBD
  - Smaller parking lot above the basketball court specifically for events and activities going on in the Function Hall or the fields – estimate TBD
  - Beach renovation project deals with the left side of the beach to make it more accessible – estimate TBD
    - We have a 5-year window with the State with our existing permits before we have to start the process all over again
- Annual Park Reviews
  - Assignments to review parks for September Meeting possibly add to the Capital Improvement Project List
    - Abbie Griffin Park - Maureen Hall
    - Bishop Field - Tracy McGraw
    - Depot Street Boat Ramp - Christine Lavoie
    - Gibson Memorial Complex (Martel & Gibson Fields) - Lon Woods
    - O’Gara Drive Recreation Area - Rick Greenier
    - Reeds Ferry Fields - Rick Greenier
    - Twardosky Fields - Jamie Devlin
    - Twin Bridge Park - Christine Lavoie
    - Veterans Park - Laura Jaynes
    - Wasserman Park (can be multiple people) - Matt Casparius

- Watson Park - David Shaw
- Weston Park - Laura Jaynes

## 5 Director's Report - Matt Casparius

- Wasserman Park Beach Project Update
  - Last winter we put the beach project out to bid and the lowest bidder was almost double what are estimates were
  - Money left over from last year's fiscal budget that can go to this getting this project complete
- 2021 Summer Camp Update
  - Last day of camp will be Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Biggest challenges this summer was hiring staff - lifeguard pay rate increased from \$11.42 hour to \$15 an hour
  - 3 buildings have leaking roofs
  - 2 crushed septic system lines
  - Ice machine broke last week
  - No cases of COVID so far
  - About 27 registrations short (or about \$6500) from estimated count months ago
- Report on Recent Community Special Events
  - Summer Concerts in the Park
    - Concerts went well and averaged about 140 people a week
  - Summer Movies in the Park
    - Currently average about 60 people
    - Police Dept asked do a 5<sup>th</sup> concert for National Night Out and will sponsor it
    - Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm at Wasserman Park - Ferris Bueller's Day Off
    - Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm at Wasserman Park - Raiders of the Lost Arc
- Upcoming Community Events
  - 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony - Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 8:30am at Abbie Griffin Park – program TBD and looking for a singer and bag piper
  - Angel of Hope Memorial Dedication Ceremony - Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> 10:30am – 2:00 pm at Abbie Griffin Park - Angel of Hope Memorial for families who have lost an infant at birth
  - Merrimack 275th Celebration (gift of a covered bridge – for first original road in Merrimack with estimated cost of \$500,00 and a multiyear project)
    - Programs and events have been occurring since April and continuing all summer
    - Combine the Fall Festival with Annual Halloween Party on October 30<sup>th</sup> – location TBD
- Other Department Updates
  - None

## 6 Organization Reports

- School Representative – Position Currently Vacant

- We are looking for a new School Representative
- Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall
  - John O'Leary building opened on July 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Texas Tenors event
  - Newport Playhouse event
  - Bingo is being offered
- MYA - Rick Greenier
  - Football - start on Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 150 registrations
  - Soccer – will start soon and 275 registrations
  - Baseball - for fall and around 80 registrations
  - Lacrosse to offer a program called Fiddle Sticks
  - Fall softball will be offered soon
  - Basketball registration to open on 09.16
  - MYA participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> of the July Parade and thanks to Lacrosse Director Jill Mitchell for spear heading it
  - merrimackyouthassociation.com
- School Board – Laurie Rothhaus – not present
- Town Council – Lon Woods
  - Meetings resume Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

#### 7 Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### 8 Adjourn at 8:24pm

- Tracy McGraw made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm
- Christine Lavoie 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- 9-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Creswell