

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
Regular Meeting Minutes, June 9, 2020
TOWN HALL

Approved June 23, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:03.

Members Present: Eric Jacobson, Carrie Joseph, Dave Turcotte, Dan Slattery, Eric DeGray

Guests: Heather Jolicouer, Joanna Howland, Ed Salerno

Review Minutes: Eric J. make a motion to approve May 26th meeting minutes. Dan 2nd, all in favor 4-0.

Bills & Payroll: Some bills still need to be signed. Dan mentioned he still doesn't have an office key. Checks were cut for all CPC funds.

COVID-19 – Phase 2 started yesterday and as such there is an opportunity to run the summer program. There can be baseball practices but no games as of yet. Still don't know about fall soccer. Will post a soccer registration form pending that things might change due to COVID-19.

Memorial Park Well – There is an outstanding issue of returning the well pump. At some point Quabbin Valley needs to be contacted so that someone can pick it up.

Summer Baseball – Dan would like to reach out to see if the department can coordinate baseball teams and see if coaches can start having practices in Phase 2. Maybe Hampden can take the lead to run a program and reach out to neighboring towns. Would need to use fields at TWB for practices. Parents would need to sign a registration form but there would be no league fee. Liability form also needs to be included. Perhaps by Phase 3 there can be games.

Summer Program – Carrie created a presentation about state guidelines vs. what the department has that already complies with these regulations. To begin, the summer program isn't a camp, therefore putting it in a different category for regulation compliance. State mandates include that those attending the program must be MA residents, a list of program policies and procedures needs to be created, the program has a representative for COVID-19 concerns, the park needs a designated space for emergencies, and someone must record temps of attendees and counselors and file these records. Temperatures will not need to be taken upon arrival. The board has already approved the purchase of 2 touchless thermometers however, they should consider purchasing more. Campers and counselors must wear a mask when social distancing cannot be enforced; children do not need to wear a mask in the spray park. The BOH has said that they require that the children wear masks all day. Groups cannot consist of more than 12 people; this number includes the groups counselor. When children arrive at the program, they need to report to their counselor and stay with their group all day. A consistent hand hygiene practice needs to be maintained for staff and children, and the department needs written permission from the parents to use hand sanitizer when necessary. Extra masks will be available if needed.

A list of protocols and procedures will need to be written to address the dismissal of sick children, the drop off/pick up procedure, which could be staggered, and a plan for disinfecting surfaces. It is mandated to minimize the use of shared equipment and keep all belongings 6 feet apart. The park has 2 pavilions for emergency use, one that can fit 33 people and then the small

pavilion which can fit another 10 people. Each child would bring their own snack and lunch and there will be no snack bar this year. Dave said he could continue to write the protocols that Carrie has already started. This document needs to be made available to the parents and can be put on the website. The registration form will also need to be updated.

The board then discussed the concerns with operating the summer program this year. All activities will need to be coordinated to ensure social distancing. Each board member will research activities for the program. It will also be difficult to anticipate how many kids will be in each group every week as counselors must stay with the same age group for all 6 weeks of the program. The need for masks being worn all day also needs to be clarified with the BOH as this can be a health concern. Carrie stated that she has been speaking with Laurie McCool regarding the regulations and all additional questions should be clarified and documented in an email.

Carrie has been in constant contact with Joey regarding the summer program and has been discussing program ideas. 8 counselors are returning with 2 additional counselors who will be substitutes. Eric J think that the board can meet the challenges presented by Phase 2. The program will be starting once Phase 3 starts and it is possible that some of the restrictions could change, however the program will need to be prepared to either advance to Phase 3 or stay in Phase 2. The program will be capped at 40 attendees per week, and both Hampden and out of town children can attend. The board then addressed any challenges with cleaning the park. Ed doesn't see daily cleaning to be an issue. Ed will be responsible for cleaning the park in the morning and evening, and cleaning during camp hours will be seen to by the counselors. The board asked Ed to please let them know if he is planning to take any vacation. Eric J made a motion to open the summer program according to the new rules that were discussed at the meeting and under the new phase that the state of MA is starting to allow the summer program to open. Enrollment will be capped at 40 children per week to the first people to register and all other rules will be stated on the application. Dave 2nd. Everyone in favor 5-0.

Spray Park – Can open now. Kristen ordered some signs and Ed can talk to Hampden Sign to order more. A copy of the MA guidelines will be put on the pavilions and fences until there is something more permanent. Parents will be responsible for monitoring their children and ensuring that COVID-19 guidelines are met. Lori said if they get too many phone calls about the disregard of these rules, they can shut the spray park down. Carrie will make signs that can be put up at the playground and spray park and Ed will put the signs up. Dave will post on Facebook that the Spray Park will be opened tomorrow. Eric J made a motion to open the Spray park tomorrow based on having the signs up there that outline the guidelines the state has for Phase 2. Will keep park open unless shut down by BOH or other concerns anyone has regarding coronavirus. Dan 2nd all in favor 5-0. Make sure bathrooms are open and that we have supplies. The new shark water fixture is being installed on the 15th. We will need to shut down the park when that is happening.

Dave will contact someone about the infield dirt.

Eric J. called the meeting to adjourn at 7:48 Dave 2nd. All in favor 5-0.