

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
Regular Meeting Minutes, September 14, 2021
TOWN HALL

Approved September 30, 2021

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm.

Members Present –Eric Jacobson, Carrie Joseph, Dan Slattery, Dave Turcotte, Brett Castellano joined by phone at 6:24 then in person at 6:55.

Guests – Steve Bennett, Grant Raucher, Jeff Johnson

Review Minutes – Dave made a motion to approve the August 24th meeting minutes as written. Dan 2nd approved 4-0.

Review Bills & Payroll – All bills approved.

Public Comment –Grant Raucher attended the meeting to discuss volunteering to help keep the park running and to assist with cutting the grass, cleaning litter, and helping with the mechanical part of the Spray Park. He’s willing to help when he can. Some possible ideas for park improvement were discussed such as renting a rototiller to help get the fields ready before the spring, weed whacking, and staining the playscape.

Steve also presented a list of what needs to be done at the park. This includes fixing the bridge by the big pavilion which is broken and needs to be replaced and fixing the zero-turn mower which is already at Acres. Acres ordered parts and changed the oil, filters, and blades. Steve said that today the blades fell off, but Acres had just put new ones on. This will be addressed. We now have two power washers but might return the other one we just bought. There are electrical issues in the RAH building and boys bathroom; Brett will follow up with Kevin Sacco about these issues. There is water building up in the hose in the pump room and the system isn’t shutting off. South Shore will be shutting down the spray park on September 22nd. The buckets in the spray park are rusted. The garage door of the RAH building is coming off; Dave will contact Dalessio Overhead Doors to fix the door. We need to winterize the sprinkler system and bathroom. The pole in the spray park has mildew built up on it. The plastic caps which are 2 half-moons, can’t be put together anymore.

Basketball – left a check in the office from Angel for renting TWB gym for basketball practice. Mike McDonald has said that in lieu of paying fees for renting the gym he could run basketball clinics for the Hampden kids on a Saturday and Sunday, (9/25-9/26) or 2 Saturdays or 2 Sundays (one for boys and one for girls). Dan made a motion, 2nd by Carrie to move to the Quabbin Valley League for this upcoming basketball season. This motion was approved 5-0. We need to get basketball registration forms out with a deadline that correlates with Wilbraham’s deadline.

Fall Soccer – there was a complaint made to Dan Woodill from the Quabbin Valley League that a Hampden team ran up the score 19-0. This has since been discussed by the parties involved.

Baseball – Jeff Johnson told the board that a Springfield coach talked to him about an upcoming league/clinic/camp program. A coach of Tampa Rays and Carlos Delgado will be there. Hampden will be attending in the spring. There was also a problem at a recent baseball game and a parent is upset. Dave will contact the parent to discuss.

Memorial Park – Dave contacted Jason Walbridge about the bridge. Dave made a motion, 2nd by Brett to have Jason Walbridge replace the well cover by the spray park. This motion was approved 5-0. Matt Pronovost has done an outstanding job prepping the fields. He also did a temporary fix on the fence. We will allow Matt first choice for field usage. Brett is reaching out to Mason Dean about getting a quote about mowing the fields at Rec and TWB.

The board discussed the service and maintenance plans for the park going forward:

Plumber – Jeff Johnson – we need a sign for his business at the fields. Jeff will send an email with his logo.

Electrician – Kevin Sacco – we need a sign for his business at the fields. Kevin will send an email with logo.

Lawn Tech Lawn Care – The board would like to know more details about maintaining the baseball fields.

Public Safety Night – October 8th 4-7pm. We have a new popcorn machine which we will be lending to Officer Jacques for the event. Contact Taylor rental for popcorn and butter and bags for the popcorn. Need a table. Bring the Strike Zone from RAH building. Kristen is ordering supplies for giveaways. If they are having fireworks, we need to coordinate with the Fire Department about the set up and our fields.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm. Next meeting is scheduled for September 30th.