

RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 19, 2021

Location: Scituate Recreation Department 327 First Parish Road Scituate, MA 02066

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER : - 6:05 PM

III In Attendance:

III Recreation Commission: Mike Connor, David Mahery, Jennifer O'Neill, Shelia McCourt (@6:30 PM)

IV Director of Recreation: Maura Glancy Field Coordinator: Kevin Devin

V See Attachment for Additional Attendees

VI

VII Motion to approve June 2021 Meeting Minutes –vote 3-0 to approve (Connor, Mahery, O'Neill)

VIII

CPC UPDATE

IX Maura Glancy reported that a CPC request has been submitted by Darryn Campbell on behalf of Scituate Little League for a 90' Baseball Field at Central. Dave Mahery stated that with the new fields built at SHS, there is now only one 90' field available for teams needing that size to use. Bill Collins informed the Commission that this has been a challenge for SHS Baseball which currently has 3 teams to practice and play games. They have been able to accommodate the teams this year by having practices overlap and scheduling games back-to-back. Ms. Glancy mentioned that there have been numerous field studies conducted. Kevin Griffin asked what makes a 90' field? It involves the distance from the pitchers mound to home plate and base distance. Chris Roberts added that the fields at SHS, Central and Recreation are multi-purpose, they can accommodate several sports. Tom Cuddihy wants to know why the CPC request was for the busiest field in town and not the "back field at Gates". Ms. Glancy provided information she received from Mark Novak who has been involved with the field complex at SHS. If the baseball field at Recreation is flipped, it would give the 300' necessary for the project. Susannah Green asked if parking for the new field had been considered? There was some mention that a JV baseball game would not generate as many spectators. She also stated that it has not been determined what is happening to the "middle building" and a committee is meeting in the coming months to decide that. Mr. Roberts wanted to know if there was consideration for adding rehab to other fields in town including Flannery and Cushing. He indicated that both fields are "junk" and dangerous for athletes. Peter Belval is concerned that creating a new field at Central will take away one of the Softball Fields. His group currently uses the 2 fields on Friday and 3 fields (includes SHS) on Sunday. He proposed adding a movable mound to allow the softball field to remain intact. Mr. Campbell stated that if a field is placed at Recreation, Little League will lose a field used by his 9-10 year old program. Matt Goehlert did mention that he ran the T-Ball program this year and was able to utilize fields at Cushing and Wampatuck for practices. He believes that improving other fields could help with the needs of the Little League program. Ms. Glancy provided data from a survey of field usage. It proved that Central is by far the most used field. Mr. Griffin asked how does Central change if a baseball field is placed in the proposed location? Kevin Devin answered that if a baseball game is being played, nothing else could be scheduled. Now he is able to schedule another program if one of the softball fields is being used. Mr. Cuddihy reiterated that it is not just losing a softball field, but the multi-purpose use of the field. Ms. Glancy stated that CPC money was used for one of the softball fields and DPW helped with the other. She also wanted people to know that a softball field needed to be placed at the SHS complex because of Title IX. Mr. Collins added that younger soccer programs (5-6 year olds) could use the outfield of baseball fields. Mr. Roberts believes this could decrease

the impact on Central. Ms. Green asked about the land swap for fields the town did at a previous Town Meeting. Tony Vegnani said that the land swap would require millions of dollars to prepare the area. He says this can't drag on because there is CPC money and monies earmarked for fields from the Toll Brothers project that needs to be used now. He believes the Recreation Commission needs to review the 2 sites and determine how both are impacted if a 90' field is placed. A final decision needs to be made based on the field that is impacted the least. Mike Connor stated that CPC has asked for a letter of recommendation from the Recreation Commission but there will be no vote on that tonight. Ms. Green wanted to know if the field is placed at the Recreation site would it be grass and would it continue to include a walking path to replace the current track. Mr. Connor indicated that the field would be grass and as for the walking path, it would be part of the impact review. The discussion wrapped up with the Recreation Commission agreeing to review the notes from the meeting, look at the impacts at both sites and vote on a recommendation for CPC at the August meeting.

XI NEW BUSINESS

XII Susan DiPesa from EDC presented information about the newly formed Scituate Visitor Center. She is meeting with members of Town Boards to see how we can collaborate to boost tourism in Scituate. Recreation already offers programming to those from out of town. Shelia McCourt was appointed liaison from Recreation Commission to work with Scituate Visitor Center.

XIII DIRECTORS REPORT

XIVN/A

FIELD COORDINATOR UPDATE

IK Kevin Devin reported that he has started to receive requests for Fall from most youth teams. He is still awaiting requests from SHS Athletics but will work with new Athletic Director Scott Paine.

II **ADJOURNMENT** : 8:15 PM