

**MINUTES
TOWN OF HARWICH
RECREATION AND YOUTH COMMISSION
THE HARWICH CHANNEL, 100 OAK STREET, HARWICH, MA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023 - 5:30 PM**

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Leah Mercurio, Acting Chair, John Mahan, David Nixon, Phyllis Thomason and Brian Wentworth Francis Crowley participated remotely.

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Eric Beebe, Recreation Director

1. RECORDING NOTICE; CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mercurio called the meeting of the Harwich Recreation and Youth Commission meeting to order on December 12, 2023 at 5:30PM and read the Open Meeting Law Recording Notice.

2. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS/GUESTS

a. Karen Guillemette, MRHS Director of Athletics – Press box CPC request

Ms. Mercurio introduced Karen Guillemette who is the Monomoy Regional High School (MRHS) Director of Athletics.

Ms. Guillemette distributed copies of the Press Box CPC request. She gave a brief overview of what has been done up to this point, to determine the need for a Press Box. She explained all the different events that the field is used for and the benefits to having a Press Box. Ms. Guillemette also explained in detail, the next steps moving forward towards acquiring the remaining funds. She is asking the Commission for their support.

Mr. Mahan requested that Ms. Guillemette submit something in writing that verifies ownership of the parcel. He also asked questions regarding a contingency and specifics of what the funding will cover.

Discussion followed regarding CPC and the requirements to obtain funds.

Mr. Mahan moved to support the project based on clarification of who the Applicant is and the jurisdiction of the property. Seconded by Ms. Thomason.

Vote: 6:0 in favor by roll call vote. Motion carried.

b. Beth Lagg – McPhee Field Access-Pathway

Ms. Lagg described the condition of the pathway to the field and how difficult it is for people to use. She requested that it be evaluated and improved. Ms. Lagg also suggested that there are no bleachers but they would be a nice addition to the field.

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Members discussed who may be responsible for doing the work requested and decided that clarification is needed before moving forward.

Mr. Beebe suggested starting with the Highway Department to clear the path. He will make the request and give Ms. Lagg an update.

A unidentified man gave Ms. Mercurio a document, stating that it was other business for the Board's Committee to consider.

3. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCES

a. Peter de Bakker, Town Band – funding request

Mr. de Bakker was not present. Mr. Beebe gave an explanation of the request and noted where those funds would be directed. He also explained that the percentage increase would put the request into the category of Enhancement of Services. His concern was that it could jeopardize other requests that are priorities.

After discussion, the members decided to take no action on this request.

b. Gerie Schman – beach water access proposal

Ms. Schman was not present. Mr Beebe gave an explanation of the request which included a packet with pictures to help explain her suggestions.

Mr. Mahan suggested that, because it is regarding water access, it could be a Waterways Committee issue. Mr. Beebe will bring it to the attention of John Rendon, Harbormaster.

4. NEW BUSINESS*

5. RECREATION AND MAINTENANCE

a. Director Report

Mr. Beebe reported that he presented CPC Articles last Thursday.

The winter youth programs are in full force at this time.

The old bathroom at Sand Pond can be hooked up to the new Title 5.

Mr. Dixon commented that the hole for the septic at Sand Pond is being dug at this time. He added that the Chair may have been over ruled by CPC and the Commission does not know how much money they have. That information will come from the Finance Director.

Mr. Beebe noted that he has talked to Frank and sent an email to Nico Lynch regarding the gateway in the fence which had been previously discussed. He will have the lower fencing covered with a protective material, he has yellow in stock. Other colors were discussed.

Mr. Beebe gave an update on the restroom at Sand Pond. If they switch to concrete, there will not be enough money. He is waiting for Sean Libby's decision on whether or not they would give the stick built another try. Mr Nixon noted that the original restroom at Sand Pond was concrete and asked Mr. Beebe to look at the specs.

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b. Property Maintenance Report

Mr. Beebe commented that the patch of black top that Mr. Mahan referred to, will also be addressed by Nico.

c. Budget Report

Mr. Beebe noted that the most recent Budget is in the packet and includes the newest Revolving Fund balance.

Mr. Beebe commented that he had put an inquiry in to the Assistant Town Administrator regarding reclassifying the tennis and camp instructors up a level. He is waiting for a response on what the process will be going forward. Discussion followed regarding the different jobs and their pay ranges.

d. Chairman's Report

No report.

e. Liaison Reports & Subcommittee Updates
o Community Preservation Committee

No update.

o Facilities Committee

No update.

o Fees Facilities Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Beebe referred to the updated list in the packet which included the changes that they had previously discussed.

Mr. Nixon noted that Mr. Beebe had been asked to supply fees and figures to Ms. Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, regarding the Red Department and 204 Sisson Road. He suggested that Mr. Beebe resolve the issue of 204 Sisson Road before he submits the list.

Discussion followed as to what the Select Board instructed Mr. Beebe to do. 204 Sisson Road will be on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

Mr. Wentworth moved to approve the list presented by Mr. Beebe, seconded by Ms. Thomason.

Vote: 6:0 in favor by roll call vote. Motion carried.

6. OLD BUSINESS

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a. Programs update

Mr. Beebe gave an update that the winter programs are going strong. He gave updates on each sport and/or programs and commented on the positive addition of volunteers. All normal spring programming was listed and possible new programs were mentioned. He also mentioned the demand for programs involving younger children 3-5 year olds.

He will reach out to Brewster and Yarmouth who already have programs for that age group.

Spring kickoff and social media posting to get information out was discussed.

b. MyRec software update

Mr. Beebe noted that they are expecting a soft opening in early January. Everything is on track.

c. CPC Projects update

Mr. Beebe noted that his presentation to CPC went well other than getting a little push back on the Brooks Park Beautification Project.

Members discussed interest in a multi-town pool. Mr. Nixon mentioned a bill that was passed 20 years ago that set aside money for a pool.

d. Facilities Policies/ Fees – discussion and possible vote

Discussed with previous items.

e. Parent Group proposal - discussion

Ms. Mercurio noted that the Parent Group was interested in updates. Those items were discussed and covered in Program Updates.

Mr. Beebe commented that they hope to do some evening family events during Christmas and February breaks.

Kayak rentals/storage, 204 Sisson Road and splash pad will be on the next agenda.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mahan moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Nixon.

Vote 6:0 in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

December 12, 2023

Judi Moldstad
Board Secretary

December 12, 2023