

Lakeville Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
Remote Location
Thursday, June 04, 2020@ 6:30pm

Members Present: Mike Nolan, Joe Coscia, Jesse Medford, Scott Holmes (6:48pm)

Other Attendees: Neli Woodburn (Clerk)

Commissioner Coscia opened the meeting at 6:41pm. LakeCam was recording and live streaming the meeting via Facebook. Commissioner Coscia read an introduction regarding the need for a remote meeting and how a remote meeting will be conducted. Roll call attendance was completed; Chairman Holmes and Commissioner Bradley were not in attendance. No additional speakers were scheduled for the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

REVIEW / APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting minutes from 5/30/20 were provided. Commissioner Coscia provided some grammatical corrections which were immediately updated by the Commission Clerk.

MOTION by Jesse Medford: Approve meeting minutes from 5/30/20 as amended. Seconded by Joe Coscia

Roll Call Vote: Jesse Medford – aye, Mike Nolan – aye; **MOTION PASSED**

Commissioner Nolan inquired if the Commission would be meeting prior to elections scheduled for June 16th. He wanted to ensure the Commission was in agreement with fulfilling the needs of the Town Clerk for the day and cleaning of the venue. No confirmation of cleaning has been provided. Commissioner Nolan will follow up with the Town Clerk. Chairman Holmes entered the meeting at this time. Commissioner Coscia noted phase II of the reopening plan was being announced over the weekend and wondered if a meeting should be schedule to discuss the new information. It was Commissioner Nolan's understanding, the Governor's plan may begin but the Town may choose not to fully open. Many sport teams are looking to begin their season, so reopening answers are needed. Chairman Holmes confirmed approval from the Board of Health and Town is needed before reopening at the parks can begin. According to documents available, phase II will allow only certain sports to play games. Contact sports will only be permitted to hold practices or drills. A review of the current reopening documents and the allowed sports was present.

CPP UPDATES:

(Discussion on 2020 season) Chairman Holmes and Commissioner Coscia met at Clear Pond Park (CPP) recently to review opening for the season. The Board of Selectmen also recently met and discussed the opening of CPP this year. Commissioner Medford was in attendance at the Board of Selectman meeting and provided a review. The additional cost for maintenance to the area during the pandemic brought the total cost to an estimated \$40,000 while the income with restrictions was estimated at \$9,000; resulting in a deficit of \$31,000. Due to the increased expenses for additional precautions during this time and the decreased revenue due to limiting guests; the Board of Selectmen recommended not opening for the season. Chairman Holmes requested everyone provide their thoughts on the matter. He began with his concern about the welfare of the employees and guests at CPP this year. He felt additional employees will be needed for the season to ensure precautions are being followed; this would increase the payroll budget. Additionally, a cleaning company may be required to deep clean the area once a week, also increasing the maintenance cost. The biggest concern is the wellbeing of the staff at CPP with concerns of the budget being secondary. He had estimated the FY21 budget would have a

\$50,000 loss; this would appropriate the remaining balance in retained earnings and therefore the estimated loss at CPP would become a burden for the Town budget. He did not believe the Town's budget could do so. Commissioner Coscia began his discussion with a list he compiled of restrictions to be put in place in order to open. The list included: mask requirements except on the sand or in the water, beach area for events would not be used, separate entrances and exits for the bathrooms, plexiglass shield for entry booth and concession stand, no family passes sold, credit cards would be accepted to minimize cash handling, once the pond reached a maximum number of guest it would be closed for capacity, 12x12 sections would be marked with an aisle to access the water, all visitors would need to provide their contact information, the basketball area could be utilized with a maximum number of 10 people, masks would be required at the playground and cleaned each day, masks required at miniature golf, separate exits and entrances for beach access, social distancing would be required on the raft area, and picnic tables can be used at the grill areas. The beach would be split into two sections with the lifeguard tower in-between. One side can hold 90 people and the other about 60; this is with 12x12 grids laid out. Adding use of the picnic tables would allow more visitors resulting in a maximum capacity of 200 guests at one time. He additionally did a comparison of the expected revenue for the season; he averaged 600 visitors per week for a total of \$3,000 per week in revenue. This would result in \$24,000 in gate fees for the 9 week season; the concession was averaged at \$10,000 for the season. He estimated \$44,000 in expenses producing a deficit of \$10,000. He noted the deficit would probably be greater due to the additional cleaning needed. Commissioner Nolan began his dialogue with concern about reducing the payroll by cutting staff; he felt the staffing could not be reduced for the season. He also thought the estimated of \$24,000 for gate fee revenue was optimistic and would fall in-between the Town Administrator estimated of \$9,000 and the \$24,000 number. He estimates a bigger deficit of \$24,000. He agreed season passes should not be available; and believed an additional employee would be needed to field phone calls about capacity throughout the day. The grid system would also need additional employees to manage. Bathroom cleaning would be needed more than once a day. It was believed playgrounds will remain closed during phase II of the plan. The raft is also too small in size for social distancing. He expressed his concern for the safe opening and concluded CPP should not open for the season; maintenance projects could be focused on instead. Commissioner Medford continued the discussion by expressing his agreement with the Board of Health notes on opening CPPP safely, however the suggestions were expensive. Group outings and swim classes could not occur, as well as not using the raft for the season; these restrictions would decrease visitors to the pond. He believed health and safety wise the pond could open for the season, but it would not be fiscally responsible due to all the budget cuts currently happening. Chairman Holmes inquired if any correspondence has been received on this topic. The Commission Clerk has only received questions on if CPP is/will open this season. Commissioner Nolan noticed some posts on Facebook in regards to CPP. He emphasized the Commission is trying to keep everyone safe and does not wish to infringe upon anyone's rights. Commissioner Medford has been attempting to provide information to the public via social media; Chairman Holmes recommended limiting comments on social media. It was corrected that playgrounds will be opened in phase II per the Governor's documentation.

Motion by Jesse Medford: Close Clear Pond Park for the 2020 season.

Seconded by Mike Nolan

Roll Call Vote: Joe Coscia – nay, Jesse Medford – aye, Mike Nolan – aye, Scott Holmes –abstained; **Motion Passed**

Chairman Holmes requested a memo sent to the Board of Health, Board of Selectmen, and Chief of Police with an overview of the passed motion. Signs stating "No Trespassing" will be posted on the gate, along the fence, and on the beach. Commissioner Nolan mentioned the Chief of Police has offered to assist with trail cameras at CPP via information from the Town Administrator. Chairman Holmes disclosed his vote was not required, but he would vote not to open for 2020 season.

ANY OTHER OLD BUSINESS TO REVIEW:

A request was received from Samurai Baseball for practice space/time at Ted Williams Camp. This group was not signed up for the spring season. They are requesting one to two days a week for practice and a morning weekend practice. Other groups had signed up for the spring season, but have not reached out since the shutdown to reschedule time. It will need to be defined to any group, only practices can occur. Scrimmages are not allowed and will lead to revoked field privileges. The Commission wants to emphasize this point with any groups. The current state regulations for baseball were reviewed. Commissioner Coscia wondered if all groups should be contacted with these regulations and affirm whether they want time. Commissioner Nolan agreed the other groups should be contacted at this time, however most groups did officially cancel their whole spring season. A fee for the time requested is needed since the time/use of fields available to teams is now more restricted. Commissioner Coscia wanted to ensure there would not be an issue with the number of people in attendance at practices. Chairman Holmes confirmed the Governor's plan did detail restrictions for spectators. An outline of these restrictions can be provided to the groups/teams. The fee for the limited time/use was further discussed.

Motion by Mike Nolan: Allow the Samurai Baseball team practice time on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for 16 dates at a fee of \$250. Seconded by Joe Coscia

Roll Call Vote: Joe Coscia – aye, Jesse Medford – aye, Mike Nolan – aye;

Motion Passed

Commissioner Coscia recommended adding the reopening guidelines to the contract for the team representative to sign. Chairman Holmes will confirm with Town Hall use of the fields is approved with the new guidelines.

NEW BUSINESS

CORRESPONDENCE:

(Any new correspondence) Commissioner Coscia received correspondence from a girls' softball group represented by Sara St. Don. The group is looking to hold tournaments at John Paun Park (JPP) and provided their social distancing plan. As reviewed previously in the meeting, the Governor's phase II plan does not allow tournaments. Commissioner Coscia will follow up with Ms. St. Don since they alluded to other areas of Massachusetts allowing tournaments. He will further reach out to other groups at JPP to confirm if field time is needed under the current restrictions.

Payments from Lakeville Mixed Martial Arts was received and passed into the Commission Clerk. This covers multiple months of rent.

The Horseshoe and Pickleball groups are slated to begin limited play. The group size at this time is 10 or less. This small group number was communicated. Plans from the groups to follow restrictions have been received. Communication will be sent to the groups/teams with the current restrictions.

ANY NEW BUSINESS FOR THE COMMISSION

There was no further new business for discussion.

ITEMS FROM THE CLERK

The Commission Clerk did not have any further information to present.

OTHER BUSINESS

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE COMMISSION

There was no further business to review at this time.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2020 @ 6:30pm via remote access.

Motion by *Jesse Medford*: Adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mike Nolan

Roll Call Vote: Joe Coscia – aye, Jesse Medford – aye, Mike Nolan – aye; **Motion Passed**

*****Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm*****