***TOWN OF DEDHAM***

***Parks & Recreation Department***



*Robert Stanley*

*Director*

*Debra Anderson*

*Assistant & Program Director*

*Tracey White*

*Administrative Assistant*

*Dedham Recreation Center*

*269 Common Street*

*781-751-9250*

*Anthony Mucciaccio Pool*

*1 Recreation Road*

*781-461-5991*

May 11, 2020

Virtual Meeting via : BlueJean

Present:

Jonathon Briggs - Chairman Absent:

Tye Donahue – Vice Chairman

Lisa Moran

James Maher

Chuck Dello Iacono

Robert Stanley – Director

Debra Anderson – Asst. Director

Tracey White – Assistant to the Director

Chairman Briggs opened the meeting by reading the Governors statement that needs to be read regarding virtual meetings

***Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and State of Emergency, on March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order Temporarily Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20. Pursuant to the Order, public bodies are temporarily relieved from the Open Meeting Law’s requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberations "through adequate, alternative means."***

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Minutes** – hold of Minutes until next meeting

**Discussion of Field Useage from Youth Programs:** Director stated that most youth groups have contacted him regarding what can be done at the parks

Bill Walsh from Dedham Girls Softball; he stated that the Spring Season has been cancelled. He stated that they are unsure how games can be played with masks and social distancing. Hoping to have some type of clinics, or skills during the summer. How it would be done with touching the same equipment such as bats, helmets, balls & such, he is unsure of what that looks like during this Phase.

Director asked if they would look to do something in the fall?

B. Walsh answered possibly play a summer Hockamock league in summer and maybe a fall program.

J. Briggs stated that the Commissioners are looking forward to what sports that do not usually play in the fall, will they potentially need field usage in the fall.

Heath Purdy, of Dedham Youth Baseball; stated they are possibly going to have clinics & practices over the summer. Many towns have already cancelled programs.

J. Briggs asked if there was a cutoff date?

B. Walsh stated that they have refunded all program fees, not looking to register and then have to refund again. USA Softball have cancelled all tournaments in New Hampshire.

H. Purdy, stated that they must let Cal Ripkin know their plans by July 1, 2020

P. Yanderivits from Dedham Youth Soccer stated the Spring Season has been cancelled. Soccer has come up with some various ideas, based on what rules of town are regarding the fields.

Jean Downey stated that they will follow what other leagues are doing**.**

Sal Ledda, stated he will not be able to have camp this year, would it be ok to have eight kids and two coaches on field?

J. Briggs stated that whatever the protocol warrants will be what we need to do. It is painful to not have kids being outside playing.

J. Maher stated that they would like to be prepared for the fall, and throw some ideas at the Commissioners, so we are prepared.

J. Briggs stated that the key is communication.

L. Moran stated that she believes Lacrosse Season has been cancelled, do we know that for sure?

B. Walsh stated he spoke to Brian O’Connell and that Lacrosse has cancelled season.

T. Donahue thanked theprogram Directors and stated there was always an open-door policy, with Commissioners.

J. Briggs stated that the Community Clean-Up was put on the Agenda to discuss the

Specifically talking about Mother Brook and surrounding area, Park & Recreation has Care, Custody & Control of Condon Park & the area behind Delappa Plaza & behind Fire Station is Town of Dedham, low laying areas are controlled by the Army Corp of Engineers.

Trails were used by neighbors, and party areas some years ago were groomed and a bridge built by various Eagle Scout projects. Each Spring a Clean-up is done, it was not able to be done this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. Efforts over twelve years has been great with so many people helping out, with Rita Mae Cushman and Dan Megan being point people for the clean ups, and with the Parks Department & DPW picking up the trash. Ownership of the trail is under the Care, Custody & Control by various State and local Departments.

Trails were open, but not for group activity, nobody from Parks & Recreation were notified that there was going to be a Clean-up. To gain access to the trails you must cross Parks & Recreation property. Our Department does a good job of policing the area, but the Police Department really does the policing via bike and such.

J. Briggs read some questions from the chat feature:

1) Why are there not more barrels?

J. Briggs answered that those barrels often find themselves in the brook, or tipped over, so there would be no barrels in that area, but there are barrels in the Park.

J. Maher stated that there was a “semi-permanent” barrel and it was torn out of the ground and thrown in the brook at one time.

2) Would it be possible to ask Dunkin’ Donuts & CVS to put out trash barrels?

J. Briggs stated that possibly the Town could ask them.

J. Briggs stated that Mr. Delappa had recently passed away and was a very nice man, and was a good man to work with.

3) Can you please explain what area Parks & Recreation has Care, Custody & Control of, if the Mother Brook Group is responsible for cleaning up

J. Briggs stated that the Parks & Recreation is responsible for the park, Condon.

Rebecca \_\_\_\_ stated that on the Sunday when Mr. Dello Iacono approached the cleanup group he was not wearing a mask. She then asked if there was a map to show what areas are controlled by who.

J. Briggs stated that behind CVS & Delappa Plaza & Fire Station is the Town of Dedham, and the area around the brook is the Army Corp. of Engineers /State.

Georgina Woods stated that the trash for many years has been an issue, behind the Dunkin Donuts should have a better fence, trash blows into the water.

Maybe have a keep the town beautiful program, as Hyde Park has.

J. Briggs stated that a question had been asked from the chat feature:

that if it is not a Parks & Recreation issue, them why it on the Agenda?

J. Briggs answered that because in was a major discussion on social media that Parks & Recreation were not doing their jobs, and wanted to correct the thought that the Parks Department was not doing their job.

J.Briggs wanted to sing the praises of the groups that have done clean ups in that area.

Rebecca wanted to know if it was appreciated that people have been cleaning the area. Not having forty plus people makes no sense. Because we have been doing so with social distancing, we have pulled 33 bags of trash and a mattress We would like recognition rather than being put on the Agenda with a question on whether we can continue.

J. Briggs stated that was not what was on the Agenda and she should not feel that way that way. He stated that the Department has worked hand & hand with various community groups in the past, however that is not what is allowed at this time.

Cindy Gillen stated that the group did initiate a cleanup and did go through Condon Park, however, now will access the area from behind the Plaza, personally I feel that we are just helping out when a large community group could not at this time. Who in the town should they ask for permission to do a cleanup, so it would not have to be a volunteer group, maybe a Town Department could take control of?

J. Briggs stated that it was great that they spoke to the Board of Heath, and next would be the Board of Selectman.

Elizabeth Gustin stated that Cindy should contact the Conservation Commission and look at the orders of conditions for the various properties, I believe that the area of a mile is what they need to keep that area clean.

J. Briggs stated that now things are being done in that area would be the time to react.

Question was asked about the area need the meadow?

J. Briggs stated that the area there is DCR property, then it becomes private property near the Condominiums and then back to DCR.

T. Donahue, thanked the group that did the cleanup,

C. Dello Iacono, stated the group did explain they had reached out to the Board of Selectman, the Conservation Department and the DPW, but he stated those were the wrong departments. At the minimum they should have notified the Director, we would discuss it a meeting and vote, a blessing from our Parks Union would be needed, and there also liability issues.

L. Moran stated that the area behind the plaza is to be cleaned and maintained with the renovation project.

J. Maher stated that he was appreciative of the work that has been done. The Manor Group did not meet to clean up areas, due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Board of Health should be notified as they are the most informative on what can be done.

J. Briggs thanked all for attending the virtual meeting.

Rebecca asked who is going to be in communication with Dunkin Donuts & Plaza to clean, who at Town Hall should we speak to?

J. Briggs stated that he would start with the Town Administrators office.

Director’s Report

R. Stanley thanks the Clean up group and stated that Parks & Recreation could help, such as picking up the trash.

* All Spring programs have been cancelled, if looking for a refund, people should contact the office.
* looking at the Summer programs, and are in limbo now, we have decided that at some point to we need to make a decision
* The pool may not be open, we think June 1st would be the cutoff to make a decision, regarding Summer programs
* We are waiting for state guidance, we want to be unified with the State and local communities.
* in communications with many other Park & Recreation Departs all over the State.
* Flag Day Parade has been cancelled, maybe something, hate to see the day go by
* Events scheduled Fourth of July Road Race possibly have in the Fall.

C. Dello Iacono stated that the Four on the Fourth Committee was meeting virtually at the same time, to make some decisions.

* the Run for the Fallen would like to be on September the 19th.the Pumpkin Bowl is supposed to be that day, however we can work that out.
* All Parks Dept. employees will be called back on Monday
* 3
* +The Parks guys helped the Schools to cordon off the Turf Field at the High School
* Maintenance continues to be done at the fields
* Participating as a member of the General Covid-19 Task Force for the Town
* Participating on the Opening Dedham Task Force, to come up with a plan to come back to work

J. Maher asked if the Parks Dept. was coming back on the 18th

Director answered that all the guys will be back on Monday

J. Maher stated that the Town of Brookline had furloughed employees, has that been a discussion for our employees?

R. Stanley stated that some Department’s across the state have, and if the pool doesn’t open that will be an issue, but we are trying to plan ahead. We have been told not to spend any money in June.

We will probably have $100, 000. in refunds, we would spend that money on employees, so we are in a unique situation and hopefully we survive

L. Moran asked if the decision would be June 1st, does that include the Swim Team?

Director answered that he cannot see it happening but waiting for the league to make a decision.

C. Dello Iacono thanked the Director and Office Staff.

Director stated that Debbie has come into the office and thanked the Assistant Director for all she has been doing.

T. Donahue thanked the Director, the Assistant, and the Administrative Assistant for the work being done on behalf of the Department.

T. Donahue made a motion to accept the Director’s Report

C. Dello Iacono made a second to the motion

J. Maher voted yes

L. Moran voted yes

J. Briggs voted yes

Heath Purdy stated that Baseball will help with clean up once fields open

Can the batting cages be put up once the parks open?

R. Stanley answered yes, and it will be all hands-on deck, once we get approval, we are going to be ready to go.

J. Briggs asked via chat,

1) Will there be a gardening program?

Mr. Briggs answered that quite possible to do that while social distancing.

2) Are kayak and canoe’s available for rent?

Mr. Briggs answered that rentals are not being done; however the launches are open and if you own a kayak or canoes can use with your own

**Old Business**

C. Dello said he had no old business

T. Donahue answered no old business

J. Maher asked about windows at the pool

R, Stanley stated that $450,000 was the budget for the windows, high bid was $500,00 and low bid was $250,000

Engineering is working with the low bidder to make sure all that is requested in the bid is what is being proposed, if so then the HVAC system can be possibly be done and have both projects completed

**New Business**

C. Dello Iacono stated he had No New Business

T. Donahue stated he had no New Business

L. Moran stated she had no New Business

J. Maher stated as a commissioner I am happy with the communications via Facebook with Senior employees and participants, it is nice to see.

**Assistant Director’s Report**

J. Maher stated that he appreciated the focus spots on the Seniors that are being done, the Bay State Games are not being held this year, and they are recognizing the Seniors

D. Anderson said that there would be more Seniors

* She stated that Spring Programs were cancelled and refunded 25 families, and all others took a credit
* Once a program is cancelled, we notify the staff, the participants and then put on Facebook and try and notify the public
* Sent letters to all returning employees stating we are not sure what is happening for the summers
* Looking forward looking how to assist the community
* We are keeping a list of staff that may want to work with families that need childcare
* Looking at what outdoor programs can we have with social distancing
* Looking at what our Fall Programs will look like
* No Flag Day Parade

J. Briggs asked about gardening club

D. Anderson stated that that is an environmental Program, and that they haven’t set anything up so far

R. Stanley stated he had a conversation with Conservation Comm., and it is not cost effective and we can not subsidize that program any longer

J. Briggs stated that there are other gardening groups that may be less expensive

T. Donahue thank Debbie for all her work, and for her report

L. Moran appreciates the Facebook posts, and asked when the letters sent to employees

D. Anderson stated she mailed on Wednesday

J. Maher made motion to accept the Assistant Directors Report

T. Donahue Second the Motion

L. Moran voted yes to accept

J. Maher voted yes to accept

J. Bridggs voted yes to accept

Motion to adjourn by C. Dello Iacono

L. Moran made a second to the motion

J. Maher voted yes

T. Donahue voted yes

J. Briggs voted yes