

Parks and Community Programs Advisory Committee

October 18, 2016

4:08 pm

Mason-Motz Activity Center

Meeting called by: Karen Jones

Note taker: Karen Jones

Attendees: Dan Smith, Karen Jones, Lucky D'Ascanio, Jeff Mason, Sally Bitan, Dominique Sette- Ducati, Melanie Collins, Aaron Svedlow- Town Council Liaison

Secretary's Report: August minutes approved as written

Parks Division Report: Parks readied the Veteran's Memorial for the 9/11 celebration mowed Legion added mums; Fall Classic stayed at the school campus again this year which has "saved" Community Park fields. Dan Smith asked about the speed bumps at Community Park and it was explained that they are placed strategically so as to not only slow traffic but to not allow for anyone to drive around them onto the edges of the grass. Village Park sidewalk being shimmed this week. Parks tour went well...visited Suckfish Brook and Pine Grove (committee looked closely at the damage caused by an over zealous resident wielding a chain saw as well as rake). The Open Space Ombudsman, Bob Shafto and Lucky will work together this winter to create a management plan for Pine Grove Preserve. Deed restrictions limit what can be done for clean-up. The River Point brick home was removed & granite was saved for future projects; demolition included some asbestos removal as well as reseeding the area. Councilor Svedlow mentioned some "divots" at the CP Football Field and Parks will repair them.

FCP Report: 1st phase of the Plummer School is beginning w/addition. This work should net about 28 extra parking spaces; some cost saving will be seen as M-M and Plummer will share a large underground propane tank. Before/After Care is going well. We are still looking for more help. Kate Harris is working with volunteer coordinator at the school. BC/AC is for ages K-5 and currently we have 22 students enrolled on our biggest day. It is ala carte and parents can choose which days and AM or PM or both. The Falmouth Corners Preschool (a co-op school) is also at M-M and paying a monthly rental for the space. They seem genuinely happy here. Senior programming has been going great and some programs have waiting lists of up to 12 people. In most cases we will be accommodating the wait listed folks and taking two vehicles to programming where appropriate. Pickle Ball is gaining in popularity! Holiday tree lighting is scheduled for December 1st at Village Park. "A Very Merry Weekend" is the name for the new Shop Falmouth local weekend.

Old Business/New Business: LMAC is ready to move forward with its recommendations for changes to the ordinance with regard to Pets in Parks & Public Lands and would like to have a formal endorsement from the PACPAC committee. Lucky reviewed the proposed changes including (1.) requiring leashes on dogs within 300 feet of parking lots and trailheads, (2.) Closing River Point Conservation Area to pets and closing Woods Road Community Forest to dogs from Dec. 1 to March 31 to comply with the state sanctioned deer yard on this property and (3.) Seasonally requiring leashes on dogs at 3 conservation areas to protect breeding wildlife (Hadlock Community Forest, North Falmouth Community Forest and Suckfish Brook Conservation area). The committee voted unanimously to support LMAC's effort.

Lucky briefly noted that work will begin in the Senior Room at M-M sometime in November and also stated that the Community Park Connector Committee voted to focus their work on an alternative route from the HS through the Falmouth Land Trust McCrann property and along Falmouth Road rather than the "tunnel/bridge through the woods". That committee felt that bicycle and pedestrian traffic along Falmouth Road was more important and would serve a greater number of users in the long run.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 15th at Mason-Motz