

PACPAC
Parks & Community Programs Advisory Committee
Town Council Update – 10/14/2020

There is hereby established a parks and community programs advisory committee consisting of seven members serving without pay, appointed by the town council for the three-year terms. This committee shall plan a town-wide parks and community program and shall advise and cooperate with the parks and community programs director so that a progressive community program may be initiated and maintained.

(Code 1966, Ch. 201 § 11, § 103; Ord. of 9-24-2007, § 4; Amd. of 12-13-2010; Amd. of 3-11-2013)

TOWN COUNCIL WORKPLAN ITEMS:

1. Develop a “Comprehensive Parks & Active Recreation Areas Strategic Plan”: ON-GOING

Lucky D’Ascanio has been working with Maggie Fleming to upload the Town’s current data into the National Recreation & Park Associations “Park Metrics” database. Parks Metrics is used to assess benchmarks regarding things such as, the number of parks and/or playgrounds per population and capita as well as the number of staff to the number of facilities, etc. This work is very near the finish line and should be available for discussion at our meeting in November so we can begin to map out a strategy. It is the committee’s hope to highlight some fun facts about Falmouth’s data in upcoming issues of the Falmouth Focus and on social media in the near future.

2. Develop a Town Wide Public Spaces Improvement Plan: ON-GOING

With regard to a “beautification plan” for the Town, the committee expects this work to overlap with information gathered from the Comprehensive Parks & Active Recreation Areas Strategic Plan which will give the Town some time to develop a funding strategy for this work. The committee is prepared to spend meeting time on-site at each facility over the course of the next year or so to gather more information and formulate a plan. But the committee and staff are cognizant of the fact that this work will require workforce and with a full-time Parks staff of only two, volunteers will likely be required to bring this plan to fruition, especially given the current pandemic and economic situation we are all facing.

3. PACPAC Charge-Review Status: COMPLETE

The PACPAC Chair, Staff Liaison, Council Liaison, Council Chair and Town Manager met last month to review the committee charge and discuss the committee’s work. This meeting allowed council leadership and administration the opportunity to gain a better understanding of PACPAC’s past project involvement and to discover what type of projects that will be tasked to the committee in the future.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Each year for the past 10 or so years, PACPAC has taken part in facilities tours of Town parks and open spaces. These tours have been “moderated” by the Parks & Community Programs Director, the Parks Supervisor, the former Open Space Manager as well as the current Open Space Manager. All have a wealth of history and knowledge and anecdotal information about town facilities, open space and conservation areas. The “tours” have focused on all areas of town and included not only parks but trails, open space and conservation areas as well. This month, we will once again be taking a tour and focusing on cemeteries in Town that the Parks department has the responsibility for maintaining per state statute with regard to Veterans burial sites. Several committee members have expressed interest in assisting the Parks & Community Programs Department in uploading GIS data of veteran burial sites. This work is nearly done but the two larger active cemeteries in town need to be completed.
- Moving through 2020 and looking to 2021 we are optimistic and for PACPAC, we envision a return of projects for the committee to oversee. While we were asked to put the Underwood Park parking upgrades and additional playground amenities on hold until the Rt. 88 and Johnson Road study was completed, we believe we will be tackling this once again over the course of this fiscal year. We anticipate robust public input from the neighborhoods in the area as well as others, likely in the way of surveys and forums. The committee will be tasked to design and implement survey questions and forums.
- On-going and past work plan items have included reviewing Community Program brochures three times a year, cooperative planning with other committees such as LMAC (Land Management & Acquisition Committee) on reviewing and making recommendations for changes in dog ordinances and working with SCAC (Senior Citizen Advisory Committee) on the development of the Senior Services Coordinator position and the remodeling of the Presumpscot Senior Citizen Room at Mason-Motz.