

Kent Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes, Regular Meeting
September 20, 2021, 7 p.m.

Present: Blythe Everett, John Grant, Lynn Harrington, Diane Impastato, Julia Neff, Michael Perkins, Abigail Smith-Hanby, Kate Symonds, Ed Matson, Miranda Lovato, Interim Director.

Public and Invited Guests: Jean Speck, Lee Sohl

Chairman Ms. Harrington called the meeting to order via Zoom at 7:01 p.m.

Elevation of Alternates: **Mr. Grant made a motion to elevate the alternates. Mr. Perkins seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Approval/Amendment of Agenda: Ms. Lovato suggested moving Item Old Business 8oi: Learn to Skate to Old Business 8a. so that Lee Sohl could speak first. **Mr. Grant made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Ms. Everett seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Correspondence: Ms. Lovato stated that she had received correspondence from Robert Mellis regarding the condition of the paths at Kent Commons Park. Mr. Mellis was concerned that the condition of the path is unsafe and could be dangerous to people walking. Specifically, the weeds and wash out areas. Ms. Lovato also received correspondence from Dave Dunleavy regarding whether Park and Rec wanted to sponsor the Kent Pumpkin Run. Ms. Lovato received correspondence from Marty Lindenmayer regarding the poor conditions of the playing fields at Kent Center School.

Old Business: Learn to Skate: Lee Sohl presented details regarding the proposed learn to skate program for 21-22 and commissioners discussed. It was discussed that Sunday might be the better day due to the schedules of the private schools and the ability to get coaches and volunteers. **Mr. Grant made a motion for Jim and Lee Sohl to go ahead with the Learn to Skate program/hockey development, Ms. Impastato seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Old Business: Director Search Committee update re-approve job description: Ms. Harrington stated that changes to the job description were suggested at the Board of Selectman's meeting and commissioners discussed. **Mr. Grant made a motion to approve the job description as amended. Ms. Everett seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Director's Report: Ms. Lovato stated that the After-School program has gotten off to a good start and has been averaging about 10 kids per day. The instructional soccer program is going well with over 50 kids registered.

Old Business: Parks: Projects, seasonal worker: Mr. Grant stated that we had received a donation of mulch for the Kent Commons Memory Garden and that someone should write a thank you note. Ed Matson stated that the path at Kent Commons Park needs to be reconstructed to move water off of the path. Ms. Lovato stated that due to the direction of water flow, steep grade of the path and the material of the path, it will likely continue to wash out. She suggested having a topographic survey done to determine the best location for water mitigation techniques and to determine if relocating the path would help. **Mr. Grant made a motion to get a quote for a survey for Kent Commons Park. Ms. Smith-Hanby seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Commissioners discussed the hiring of a seasonal contractor to help maintain the parks. **Mr. Grant made a motion for Ms. Harrington and Ms. Lovato to create an RFP for the fall cleanup of Kent Commons Park and Emery Park, advertise and collect bids and report back to the commission. Ms. Neff seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Ms. Harrington stated that we should drain the pool. Ms. Lovato stated that she had spoken with Rick, and due to freeze/thaw, the pool should not be drained. Mr. Grant stated that we should drain the pool, clean it and fill it back up prior to winter.

Old Business: Halloween Bash Ms. Harrington stated Club Getaway is available Saturday, October 30th. Commissioners discussed details of the event.

Old Business: Fall Soccer Update Ms. Lovato stated that the other towns participating in the travel soccer league have agreed to contribute \$500 each to paying the coach and assistant coach. **Ms. Smith-Hanby made a motion to contribute five hundred dollars on behalf of Kent Park and Rec to pay the coach of the travel soccer league. Ms. Everett seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Mr. Grant made a motion to have Gary Houck survey and mark the fields for lining for one hundred dollars. Ms. Smith-Hanby seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business: Mohawk Mountain Ski Club. **Ms. Smith-Hanby made a motion to have the ski program with Mohawk Mountain on Wednesdays at either 5 or 5:30, depending on what is recommended by Mohawk Mountain. Mr. Perkins seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Old Business: Winter Programming, Basketball: Ms. Lovato read a statement from Michelle Mott saying that guidelines for gym use and winter programming had not been determined yet, so nothing can be planned as of yet.

Old Business: Park and Rec by-law changes sub-committee: **Ms. Smith-Hanby made a motion to form a sub committee to review and update the constitution and bi-laws of the Park and Recreation Commission. Ms. Symonds seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.** The sub committee will consist of Ms. Smith-Hanby, Ms. Everett, Mr. Perkins and Ms. Symonds.

New Business: DEEP Recreation Trails Grant The commission discussed the grant and determined due to time and resource constraints we would not be able to apply for the grant this year, and that the commission should take a look at it next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Miranda Lovato
Interim Director

Minutes are not considered final until approved. Refer to the minutes from ensuing meeting for any changes and/or corrections.