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*By Darlene Brady at 1:20 pm, Apr 28, 2021*

Kent Park and Recreation  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Monday April 19, 2021, 7pm

Present: John Grant, Lynn Harrington, Diane Impastato, Kate Symonds, Blythe Everett, Michael Perkins, Julia Neff

Public and Invited Guests: Joyce Kearns, Ed Matson

Call to Order: Chairman Lynn Harrington called the meeting to order via Zoom at 7:03 p.m.

Elevation of Alternates: Ms. Harrington made a motion to elevate alternates. Blythe Everett seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Acceptance of Agenda: John Grant made motion to accept agenda. Kate Symonds seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes: John Grant made a motion to accept minutes from meetings on March 22, 24, (both monthly meetings) and March 26 (special meeting). Blythe Everett seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Correspondence: No correspondence received

Public and Invited Guests: No comments

Interim Director's Report: No Directors Report

After School Program: Ms. Harrington said that Anna Noland has been hired and started today. Pre K Eligibility for next year will be kept on the agenda.

Miranda Lovata spoke from Fields Commission. They are trying to improve the fields at KCS. There is a grub and geese problem. Recommendations include "Top Dressing" the fields which involves adding topsoil and organic matter and then overseeding it. Controlling geese is another issue and as the geese are now nesting, they need to wait until the fall to address the issue. Bringing dogs on the fields is one recommendation as is putting a product on the field that makes it reflective and deters geese. Spring fertilizer has been one. Another company will do the out-fields. They are in the process of getting quotes for grub control and overseeding. New England Turf quoted \$4550 for grub control (7 acres with a product called Grub Gone) (would likely need to be done yearly at least for a few years to get problem under control). Slicing and overseeding in August would be \$6,160. The Field Commission will get more quotes. Blythe will find out who Marvelwood uses. The Commission will talk to KCS to see if they can help with the cost.

Parks: Fence and gates were discussed at both parks. Pictures of gates and fences at both parks were reviewed and commission members were sent info on a locking system for the tennis court door. There is some damage to the gates at both parks and there is also some fencing that needs repair. John Grant recommended a locking system to ensure that people accessing the courts have park passes. Mr. Grant suggests calling in a fencing company to get quotes for fence and gate repair as well as installing a locking system on the tennis court door. This led into a lengthy discussion on skate boarding that is going on in the tennis court area as well as vandalism as kids are looking for activities. Installation of basketball hoops and a skate park were discussed at length. It is likely that there is no room for a skate park at the Commons (according to Ed Matson) but the commission will look into this for the Master Plan in the future. Lynn Harrington will look into the park's insurance to see if skate boarding can be permitted on the tennis court. Since the court is cement, it should not damage the court but it may be a liability issue with the insurance company. In the meantime, the commission agreed that getting a locking mechanism on the door will keep non-pass holders off the courts. The locking system Mr. Grant looked into includes capability to create thirty three-numbered codes (Bulldog lock).

Julia made a motion for John Grant to get estimates for commons fence repair and a locking system on the tennis court. Blythe seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

John Grant made a motion to get estimates for fence and gate repair estimates to include Emory Park. Kate Symonds seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

There was discussion about getting the Emory Park pool going. There is regular maintenance to be done as well as cement and ladder repair. Commission noticed that recent pictures being reviewed showed a new beaver's nest in the feeder pool. If there is a beaver's nest, trapping in CT is only permitted from Jan-March. Ed Matson said he'd go down to take a look at the feeder pond tomorrow and find out if the nest is active. (NOTE: According to John Grant on 4/27, Ed Matson has since checked out the feeder pond. There is an old nest but no beavers.)

There was much discussion on the very poor condition of the culvert at Kent Commons park. Recent pictures were reviewed. Commission does not want to be liable for the culvert. If culvert was closed people could park in the circle and walk over to the park until it was repaired.

Motion was made by Julia Neff to make a recommendation to the town to close the road at Kent Commons Park going over the culvert until it is inspected by an engineer.\*

\*An amendment was made to the above motion by Julia Neff: The commission recommends closing the road going over the culvert until the town determines it is safe. Seconded by John Grant. Motion was approved unanimously.

Recent pictures of the road into Emory Park were reviewed (This is the disabled access as well as the access for emergency vehicles.) The road continues over a culvert to the field. The road is in disrepair and is hazardous. Drainage has caused much erosion.

Motion was made by Blythe Everett: Commission recommends to the Board of Selectmen that the road from the upper parking area to the lower access at Emery Park be evaluated for safety reasons particularly prioritizing emergency and disabled access and culvert repair. Seconded by John Grant. Motion was approved unanimously.

John Grant said that the Commons needs gravel fill for the pathway and we need to get the vinegar spray going for the weeds (which Ed Matson said he'd take care of). We also need to have trees evaluated to make sure there are no dead branches. Mr. Grant says he gave Ed Matson has a list of maintenance items that need to be taken care of. Public Works needs to drain pool. Mr. Grant will work on making phone calls to get fence repair done. Pressure washing needs to be done. Playground equipment needs to be inspected for sharp edges and rust etc. Mr. Grant will update the maintenance list and get some quotes on getting it done.

Parks' Master Plan: Committee has not met so no new news.

Five Year Capital Plan: No new news.

Sports Programs: Mr. Grant will call CRPA to see status of baseball program. (Specifically the program that Region 1 directors are putting together.).

2020-21 Budget monthly Report: Ed Matson says we should have \$16k in the budget if we have not spent anything. Ms. Harrington will reach out to Barbara to get an updated budget report.

Easter event follow-up: Julia Neff says it was a success. We had about 25 entries and 40 voters participating. Prize baskets were awarded and goody bags were picked up by participants at town Hall. We got very positive feedback and Julia recommended adding it as a yearly event. Winners and pictures were announced on the Community Facebook Page.

2021 Concert Series: Lesley had reported that all the bands were ready to return. Mr. Grant will talk to Connie from the Land Trust about the event and discuss reaching out to the bands and sponsorship.

Summer Tennis Proposal: Michael Perkins will run a beginners clinic (ages 6-11 or 12) and Julia Neff will help. Dates will be July 13, 15, 20, 22, 10am-11am.

Summer programs' status: John Grant suggested using our summer program budget money to do something at Club Getaway. Ms. Harrington pointed out that the club might have other guests coming. John Grant will reach out to Club Getaway to see if we can partner with them in some way. Commission discussed moving quickly with getting beaver issue taken care of as well as maintenance done as time is running out. Ed Matson will contact Brent Kallstrom to move on the beaver issue.

New Business P&R Interim Director search: Ed Matson says we are waiting to hear back from

applicants in response to the announcement that was put out. Mr. Matson pointed out that the commission needs to decide what they want from a director such as whether it will be split into two different jobs. John Grant put the job posting on CT Parks and Rec Association website.

P&R Director search: Ms. Harrington will send current job description to the search committee members.

Mrs. Harrington adjourned the meeting at 9:19pm. The next meeting is May 17, 7pm.

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