

Recreation Committee

August 11, 2021

4:00PM, Town Hall

Members in Attendance: MaryLou Volpe (MV), Jeff Shapiro (JS), Kadion Phillips (KP), Cindy Forgit (CF), Annie Roscioli (AR),

Members Absent: Juliana Kuszewski

Others in Attendance: Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator
Dina Sexton, Resident.

Robert Dowington, Caron Rd.

OPENING OF MEETING: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting law, G.L. c. 30A Section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Sturbridge Recreation Committee will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation can be found on the Town's website at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/town-administrator/pages/how-access-virtual-meeting>. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen and or watch the meeting either online via the Town's on demand video broadcast, on cable television on channel 191, or dial into the meeting at 774-304-1455, enter 1428# for the meeting number and 12345 for the access code. (This phone number is only active for the public during public meetings). No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

The meeting was opened at 4:04 PM.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

5-11-21, 6-22-21- tabled

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Update on Concerts and Summer Programs.** AR shared that is has been a successful event season, with one only concert officially rained out. The Summer Rec has 126 registered and has offered the mini program twice this year as well.
2. **Eagle Scout Proposal, Town Common Eletrical Shed Repair.** AR welcome Nick C, currently working towards his Eagle Scout Badge. Nick has worked to accommodate the request of updating the structure but keeping its existing form to appease the neighborhood and looks of the Common. Nick has provided a budget and will gather material on his own time using Town Accounts. Quote and 1st drawing are requested for acceptance to move forward. **MV made a motion to accept the project, seconded by CF. Vote 4-0.**

Discussion on 60 Cedar St Field Project. Current site plan and cost estimate were reviewed. The Committee discussed moving the existing project forward. The cost estimate includes field, parking, lighting, cross walks, sidewalks, all ADA required updates including playground flooring upgrade and building fixtures. The goal is to apply for ADA Grants by Oct 1 and move the project forward to the special Town Meeting. MV made a motion to move the project forward to the special Town Meeting. Resident Dina Sexton asked when this project will go to both Conservation Commission and when do abutters receive notification. Jeff Bridges clarified that this project is not subject to a public hearing but this is a municipal piece of property. The Planning Board may have a process, which could include a public hearing, and the Conservation Commission will have their own process. JB reviewed the budgeting process for Town Meeting and that the permitting process would be included in this funding as part of the construction project. Once funding is received, the project still goes to both Boards for review and permitting. JB clarified that nothing has been identified through Conservation or Planning that would be fatal to the project. D. Sexton asked if a traffic study will be included, JB stated it may be. Robert of Caron Road asked the Committee how people have been notified of this project. JB stated the

design of the project was approved at the 2019 Town Meeting, and now we are moving into the design and construction, which involves public comment.

Josh Cotton asked if there is any required notice, JB clarified that Planning and Conservation will have their own rules in the regulatory process but this does not require a public hearing at this time.

Phone caller, resident of Cedar St, asked for clarification on when Conservation Commission becomes involved and asked if the plans are within the 100 foot buffer zone. JB clarified that you may build in buffer zones, with a 25 foot no build threshold. The buffer zones are an awareness issue, which requires the project for approval by the Conservation Commission. JB reviewed that the Conservation Agent has worked with the Rec Dept on buffer zones; the project has not been brought to the Commission for a permit at this time.

Robert of Caron Road asked for information on why this site was selected. MV reviewed her time on the Board and the projects brought forward. Specifically, the Town Barn project at the Town Meeting and the issues with lead at the location and the amount of times that project was brought forward. MV stated that they have reviewed many parcels and there is an issue at every location that has been reviewed. JB shared that there has been a host of feasibility studies for numerous parcels throughout Town, and this parcel does not have a CR, we avoid environmental impact to protected areas, the one "Goldilocks Parcel" that the Town has. The Town has 1800 acres of Open Space, with 60 and 70 Cedar St being the only two parcels that have no restrictions on them and we can avoid environmental impacts during constructions. JB stated that Town Barn may seem open, but there are future projects and expansions to be considered such as the DPW expansion and the need to add physical structures, so for a very rural Town, we are very land constrained on what we can do for it. AR stated that in addition to the field need, the Recreation Area is in dire need of enhancements including full ADA upgrades on the property. Robert asked of usage at the Junior High and High School Fields, KP reviewed the access restrictions on these fields and the amount of Towns they are shared with.

J.Cottone stated that he thinks one field is a band aid and there is a need for more fields, such as the Town Barn proposal. He stated his concerns for 50 parking spots and that may not be enough, meaning people will park alongside the road. He shared his concerns for turning around at the end of the road, which is a dead end at this driveway, including any increase of traffic or usage to the area such as the Town Barn. J.Cottone worried this will trigger the need for sidewalks throughout the property, to Cedar, and down. J. Cottone stated he does think we need fields, but this is not the right location. AR asked for any further discussion.

KP reviewed the intent of bringing this project to the residents, at the Town Meeting, for their discussions and decisions. KP stated that as the Committee, they are here to move the project forward to the people for their decisions.

MV made a motion to move the project forward to the special Town Meeting for approval, seconded by KP. Vote 4-0.

MV made a motion to bring the project to CPC with a funding request, seconded by KP. Vote 4-0.

3. **Update on ConnCom meeting; tick and mosquito preventions.** AR shared that Conservation Commission approved the use of products by Dave's Pest Control for mosquito and tick management on Town Fields. Rec will need to accept this vendor to move forward. As the Town currently uses a different non local vendor, Burgess Pest Control, they were also contacted to provide a quote. They do not provide a community discount so are approximately \$1,000 more expensive. Burgess Pest also did not provide product ingredient list or data sheet as requested, and use of their product would require a return to ConComm.

MV made a motion to accept Dave's Pest Control proposal for Tick and Mosquito prevention, seconded by CF. Vote 4-0.

4. **Update on Fall Fun Series, Saturdays 9/4/21-10/30/21.** AR reviewed the new fall fun Series, following the success of the Spring Free Fun Series. This series features different classes and instructors each week, Saturdays on the Town Common. The classes are open to all.

5. **Update on Fall Town Wide Yard Sale, September 18th & 19th.** AR shared the Yard Sale registration is open and underway, with ten registered so far and three weeks from the deadline. Must register by 9/1 to be included on the advertisements. KP asked if we are following the yard sale town rules, AR shared that we are actually using the Town Permit and there is no fee for the permit or application. AR intends to provide a list of addresses and possibly a Google Maps version as well.
6. **Update on Fall Adult Leagues- Pre-Registration Available.** AR shared that the High School is not allowing indoor usage/external reservations at this time and will notify the Department on a monthly basis.
7. **Discussion on Fall Bonfire Date.** AR asked the Committee if they would like to target a weeknight or weekend. The Committee unanimously agreed on a Friday night if possible, but one that would not conflict with High School Football games.

OLD BUSINESS

PROPERTY USAGE REQUESTS

1. Town Common, Harvest Festival. October 16 & 17th, Chamber of Commerce.
 2. Town Common, Wedding, August 28, 2021, Private Party.
- MV made a motion to accept the Property Usage Requests, seconded by JK. Vote 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT: KP made motion to adjourn meeting at 5:08 PM. Seconded by MV. Vote 4-0.

Tentative Next Meeting: September 13 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Roscioli
Recreation Director