

**Falmouth Recreation Committee Meeting CORRECTED MINUTES**  
**March 13, 2019**  
**Gus Canty Community Center 790 Main Street**  
**Falmouth Ma. 02540**

Present: Lori Dillon, Tom Zine, Bob Brown, Sandy Cuny, Scott Ghelfi

Absent: Richard Boles, Michael Heylin,

At 7:02 Bob Brown called the meeting to order.

“Trail at Dog Park (Brick Kiln Rd.)” presentation by Sam Mack for his Eagle Scout project, discussion and vote recommendation to Board of Select:

Sam Mack sought support from the Recreation Committee for his proposal to create a walking trail in the woods on municipal land owned by the town of Falmouth adjacent to the dog park. The rough trail would be accessible for wheelchair use. Representatives from the dog park were supportive of the idea but noted concerns about off leash dogs and maintenance of the trail. They will be responsible for only the 1.5 acres of the dog park and not the woods where the trail is proposed to be placed.

**Scott Ghelfi moved to recommend Sam Mack’s proposal for his Eagle Scout project. Sandy Cuny seconded. All in favor; motion passed.**

Falmouth Water Stewards Refill Reuse Falmouth discussion and request for recommendation to Board of Select regarding the location of two recreation facilities to promptly install water kiosks if 2019 Spring Town Meeting - Community Preservation Fund Article passes and other Water Steward projects in Town:

Water Steward representative Alan Robinson reported 8 locations had been funded but a donation in memory of MaryAnn Rowan funded one of the locations. Another is being sought to bring the total to 8 again.

It is hoped that 2 or 3 stations could be installed this season. Approval was sought to install a station on the first floor of the Gus Canty.

**Sandy Cuny moved to approve installation at the Gus Canty. Scott Ghelfi seconded. All in favor; motion passed.**

Discuss the future and need for the Ray Paltz Concession – Ticket Booth Building Adjacent to Fuller Field – Gus Canty Building Public need. Vote to designate one of our members to the Town Manager’s “temporary working group” to advocate the Committee’s recommendation to the “temporary working group” and to Board of Select:

Bob Brown explained that Julian Suso requested that the Recreation Committee send a representative to serve on a temporary working group to advocate for Recreation interests in decision making about the Ray Paltz building and surrounding land.

He outlined possibilities which included tearing down the building, remodeling the building by the Commodores, sewerage, paid for by the Commodores and upgrading the grounds and building.

A discussion included the following:

- It had been assumed by many that the building and surrounding land would be under control of the Recreation Department when construction of the Senior Center was completed. It was inadvertently discovered that the Commodores were pursuing sewerage of the property and control of the building for concessions and other uses.
- Space must be preserved for the playground.
- Space must be preserved for the basketball court.
- Representatives for the Commodores explained that Julian Suso and Peter Johnson-Staub asked them if they were interested in the building. They were interested since the facility for concessions that is now being used is inadequate.
- The COA wants open space there so there are actually three conflicts.
- Is the police fence now encroaching on Recreation land? Doug Brown will look into this.
- If the property is seweraged would it be possible to install ADA compliant bathrooms?
- The sewerage is time sensitive and a decision needs to be made by August.
- There are 25,000 spectators annually during the season.
- The Commodores are a non-profit. No one gets paid.
- Ray Paltz devoted much of his life to youth in the town of Falmouth. Among other gifts, he tended the scoreboard for 43 years.
- Part of the problem is that there is no plan for the land and things are being addressed as they come up. The approach has been to plan the Senior Center and see what happens from there. Right now, there is a road through the track.
- Whoever represents the Rec interests should take the consensus of the committee.
- The sewerage should be done to keep options open.
- Will the Commodores tear down the building? Replace or renovate? Install the pipe if they don't get a building in return?
- What is the Recreation Committee vision for the property?
- Can a concessions building be placed at the top of the hill?
- No one uses the building except for the Commodores a few weeks of the year.
- If the building were improved maybe more use could be made of it.
- Doug Brown will inquire about the playground.

**Lori Dillon moved that Sandy Cuny and Scott Ghelfi be representatives on the temporary working group. Tom Zine seconded. All in favor; motion passed.**

Discuss present and future Recreation Department grant applications and new programs to meet the accessible recreational needs of children, youth, adults and seniors:

Joe reported that he has consulted with other recreation directors on the Cape about grant application and other funding sources. The Falmouth Road Race, Cape Cod 5 and the JFK Foundation have been the sources of specific grants. Joe will investigate the DPW's plans for the slope at Trotting Park that prevents access to people using wheel chairs. He will consider CPC applications as well.

Discuss the Recreation Department staff changes in Fiscal year 2019, for present and future Fiscal years:

Joe reported that the new Program Director will come in to meet the committee at the next meeting.

Doug Brown thought that the new beach employee would be able to spend more time with recreation than beaches. He said that he also found out about the reworking of the Assistant Director position after the fact. He has communicated that he is displeased and has posed the question, still unanswered: How can recreation be improved?

Continue discussion from prior meetings and new information reports on the following matters:

- a. Upper Trotting Park and Sandwich Road Field Rehabilitation and Maintenance: Joe reported the backboard is being fixed at Sandwich Road. Stone dust added there as well. Drainage is being addressed at Trotting Park. Order of redoing fields is being shifted for efficiency.
- b. 2019 Spring and Fall Field Use Schedules due to high demand and poor field conditions at two of the three Upper Trotting Park Fields: Notify Me notifications are in place.
- c. Recreation Department plan to avoid over use of the two recent rehabilitated fields at Sandwich Road and Upper Trotting Park: Schedules are arranged. Signs are posted about no use when wet.
- d. Taft Park in Woods Hole maintenance issues: Playground is solid. No replacement is needed. Slide is closed until it is replaced.
- e. Senior Center Construction and Recreation Dept. Parking Lot: A plan is needed for camp drop off.
- f. Update of May 21, 2019 Precinct Two Voting Polling location due to Recreation Department parking lot use for construction of new Senior Center: Joe consulted with Michael Palmer and it was determined the situation at the building is sufficient for voting.

Recreation Department Budget, interesting Emails, Letters and Building Use.

Joe reported nothing out of the ordinary.

Review, Discussion and Vote Committee Minutes of December 12, 2018, January 9, 2019 and February 3, 2019:

**Sandy Cuny moved to approve the minutes of 1/9. Scott Ghelfi seconded. All in favor; motion passed.**

**Sandy Cuny moved to approve the minutes of 2/3. Scott Ghelfi seconded. All in favor; motion passed.**

Minutes of 12/12 had been approved previously.

Items for future agenda:

Succession planning, new beach position, field tour date, CPC appointment

At 8:59 Scott Ghelfi moved to adjourn. Tom Zine seconded.

Relevant Documents

Agenda for 3/13/19 meeting

Field use signs

Letter to Julian Suso from Bob Brown

Budget Expense Report

Minutes 1/9

Minutes 2/2