

Falmouth Recreation Committee Meeting CORRECTED MINUTES

May 9, 2019

**Gus Cauty Community Center
790 Main Street Falmouth Ma. 02540**

Present: Bob Brown, Sandy Cuny, Richard Boles, Michael Heylin, Scott Ghelfi, Tom Zine

Absent: Lori Dillon

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

Announce May 21, 2019 Election - Precinct Two Voting Poll Station has moved to John DeMello Senior Center, 300 Dillingham Avenue, Falmouth due to construction at the Gus Cauty Community Center:

Joe said that he will post signs and advertise the change.

Presentation by Town Planner Thomas Bott regarding Shiverick's Pond and Katherine Lee Bates Road proposed improvements:

Tom Bott was not present.

Sandy Cuny moved to take the next agenda item out of order. Scott Ghelfi seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

Discussion on the growth of Pickle Ball in the Town of Falmouth for policy recommendations to the Board of Select:

Karen Kullen, organizer of pickle ball groups in Falmouth, offered the following information:

- She has been playing pickle ball in Falmouth for 4 years.
- At that time there was one pickle ball group which grew to 65 members. When the waiting list grew to about 45 a second group formed. There are now 4 pickle ball groups with active membership around 200.
- This is the fastest growing sport in the United States.
- There is now organized play and tournaments.
- Each group is independently organized.
- Each group leader meets with Joe to schedule court time.
- In the winter, all play is indoors.
- When it rains two courts are sometimes lost because of a leak in the roof.
- Pickle ball is played at played at Swift Park in West Falmouth and Nye Park in North Falmouth during the warmer months.
- North Falmouth courts are in disrepair and not playable for the most part. Paint is peeling and there are cracks in the courts. Safety has been questioned. A court dedicated to pickle ball built there in recent years is not playable because the dimensions are not correct.
- Ms. Kullen thought that court time would be utilized if more Rec Center hours were available such as early morning and later in the evening. Play at night under lights would also be likely. If you build it, they will come, she stated.

A discussion included the following:

- There are likely more active pickle ball players since several members of the committee play on the weekends but are not part of the groups Ms. Kullen mentioned.

- The committee can reach out to the school committee to see if any court time is available for pickleball on weekends or after school.
- Pickle ball is played by a range of ages with a program underway at Morse Pond School.

Presentation by Town Planner Thomas Bott regarding Shiverick's Pond and Katherine Lee Bates Road proposed improvements:

Tom Bott still not present. Sandy Cuny explained that the project would need support of a town department. The proposed fishing pier and walking path is recreational in nature.

Director of Recreation Department update on any Town plans to create and fund proper accessible accommodations for disabled persons and wheelchairs at Upper Trotting Park Fields to enter and exit and use rest rooms:

Bob Brown reported that he spoke with the chair of the Commission on Disabilities and others at the Wellness Fair organized by the Commission on Disabilities. They asked about progress towards making the fields accessible. Bob Brown regretted that there had been no progress in the 2 years and 10 months since he began working on this issue after he saw two third graders and their soccer coach pushing a stranded wheel chair user up the hill at Trotting Park. He said that because this situation has not been addressed someone using a wheel chair is prohibited from using Trotting Park and it is likely against the law.

Discussion and Vote Recreation Committee recommendations to Board of Select for Recreation related projects and staffing to meet the accessible indoor-outdoor recreation recreational needs of children, youth, adults and seniors:

The first item was not voted since Tom Bott did not appear.

The second was not voted since the committee consensus was that things were moving in the right directions.

Director of Recreation Department update on upcoming Spring and Summer Programs:

Joe reported the following:

- 6th grade archery is going well
- Baseball is off to a good start.
- Volley ball for high school aged children is being organized.
- 20 children have signed up for each afterschool session.
- There were 46 couples at the mother/son dance. The father/daughter dance is scheduled for next month.
- Jack's Pact has provided much funding for recreation activities. Part time employee Adam Swain was connected to the Recreation Department through this non-profit organization that supports healthy community activities.
- The department is gearing up for summer camp. 170 children per session are signed up. Planning is underway for complications which may arise from the construction that is underway especially at drop off and pick up times. Ensuring safety will be the focus.

Discussion regarding Town policies and signage regarding smoking on Town Recreational fields and parks:

A member of the public inquired of Bob Brown if smoking was prohibited on town fields since it is not permitted on town beaches. Joe will ask Frank Duffy.

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

- a. North Falmouth Nye Park Tennis and Basketball Courts, Upper Trotting Park and Sandwich Road Field Rehabilitation and Maintenance: A planned start of 5/14 at Trotting Park will likely be delayed. Pop Warner received permission to put up a storage shed at Sandwich Road.
- b. Discuss Community Preservation (CP) Recreation Department Representative Position and vacancy on July 1, 2019: To be placed on June agenda.
- c. Committee discussion and vote the time and date for annual June 2019 field tour which will be posted as an Open Meeting: The tour will begin after a brief meeting on 6/12 at 4:30

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

Review and Vote Committee Minutes of April 10, 2019:

Michael Heylin approved with corrections. Scott Ghelfi seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

Items for future agenda:

CPC representative position, field tour.

At 8:40 Richard Boles moved to adjourn. Scott Ghelfi seconded.