

Sullivan Parks and Recreation Committee August 3, 2023 meeting minutes

Attendance: Bud Means, Gary Edwards, Kristal Bubar, Conrad Ober, Misty Gleason, Bonnie Sparks, Brad Bamford.

Item 1: Updates

Culverts around Sumner Park: Bid requests went out but no contractors have responded. Bud Means called several local contractors but all indicated they would not be submitting a quote as they are very busy.

Electrical improvements at Sumner Park: Don Snoke was able to get an electrician to do a portion of the requested work at the park in time for Sullivan Daze. The work included a new panel and outlets and four additional circuits.

Maintenance: Money is in the budget although it is not specifically for a position. The discussion revolved around working with the new town manager to move forward on a full-time position. There is so much to be done!

Flagpole lighting: Don inquired when the lights might be installed. It was agreed that we should move forward on the solar light (placed half-way up the pole) for the pole closest to the highway. The Fire Department will assist with installation. Lights on the other pole will have to wait until another time.

Action: Don will send the details to Bud so the Town can purchase the lights.

Kids Park: the committee discussed placing network connected, motion sensitive cameras in the Skate Park area. It was also suggested that lights be installed but it remains to be determined if the lights should be solar, connected to an electric pole and placed on a timer or connected to an electric pole and to go on and stay on automatically when it gets dark/light. Issues include sensitivity to the neighbors, a timer that might get out of sync when the power goes out, and lights that can be turned off by people using the basketball court and skate park.

Item 2: Sumner Park Gardens

Bonnie Sparks was contacted by Mary Havey who indicated that 4 or 5 people have been maintaining the gardens for the last several years. Those people are no longer able to do the work without more assistance. Several trees and shrubs in the parks need to be cut back or cut down and the shrubs around the gazebo need thinning and/or removal or redesign. The committee did not feel that it has the authority to approve extensive work but rather requested that the garden club be contacted to see if we can refocus efforts to maintain the park gardens.

Action: Bonnie will call Mary Phillips

Item 3: Friends of Taunton Bay

The Taunton Bay Education Center building is owned by the town and leased to Friends of Taunton Bay. The suggestion was made that the Parks Committee consider having one of our meetings at the Center

to see the facility and to initiate a conversation with the Friends of Taunton Bay about how we can improve communications and possibly collaborate on programming, especially the summer kids camp.

Action: Bonnie will schedule the October meeting with Alice Noyes.

Item 4: Sullivan Daze 2024 sub-committee.

We discussed how/if the Parks and Rec committee should move forward to organize future Sullivan Daze programming. It was suggested that the new town manager and the select board need to consider and authorize the Parks and Rec. to be responsible for supervising the task. The committee decided to have an informational/brainstorming session about Sullivan Daze 2024 on September 14, at 6PM at the Town Office. This session will replace our regular September meeting.

Action: Bud will put the special meeting notice in the Town Crier.

Item 4: For further discussion: mission

Gary Edwards suggested that it would be help to create a charge or mission for the Parks and Recreation committee and that said mission should be approved by the Select Board. In theory the mission should empower the committee by outline the scope of authority. Gary also suggested that the Parks and Recreation Committee have a representative on the Comprehensive Planning Committee

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm