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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS COMMISSION

APPROVED 6/24/2020

Town of Medway
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
May 27, 2020
Remote Meeting Via Zoom

In attendance:

Park Commissioners: Mike Tudino, Debi Rossi, Sean Murphy
Others: Julie Harrington, Director of Parks and Recreation, Peter Pelletier, Public Works Deputy Director, Tony Logan, Vice President and Fields Coordinator for Medway Youth Lacrosse, Jason Boucher, Incoming Fields Coordinator for Medway Youth Lacrosse

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tudino at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

The Board and Ms. Harrington discussed amendments to the minutes.

Mr. Murphy joined the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Upon a motion by Ms. Rossi and seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the February 26th minutes with amendments. The motion carried.

The Board and Ms. Harrington discussed amendments to the minutes.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tudino and seconded by Ms. Rossi, the Board voted unanimously to approve the April 29th minutes with amendments. The motion carried.

Reopening plan:

Town of Medway's Outdoor Recreation Reopening Plan can be found on Medway Parks and Recreation's Facebook and web pages.

The splash pad falls under Phase 4 due to the size and will most likely not open for the season. Mr. Murphy asked about Community Ed. Ms. Harrington commented it is hard to say due to hardly any guidance from the State. She noted the program occurs in August and is outside at

the Cassidy Field Complex. In regards to summer programming, Ms. Harrington commented everyone will have to follow guidelines – no groups of more than ten, no pools, no fields trips, masks all day, social distancing. There was a conversation about who will need to wear masks in terms of children and camp counselors and also what if a medical condition prevents a person from wearing a mask. Ms. Harrington is working on a waiver in addition to the Town's waiver. Town counsel was reviewing it and she will forward it to the Board when it is returned from counsel.

Phase 1:

Currently, the fields are open for passive recreation and the trails are open. The restrooms are being prepared to open. There will need to be signage due to the set up of the stalls. Phase 1 indicates only users from the same household. Mr. Tudino asked if there appears to be more than one family, who enforces that and deals with the liability. The fields have signs posted that say use at your own risk – no more than ten people, passive recreation only. Mr. Pelletier commented the police are called for enforcement and they stop by and make their presence known. Mr. Tudino asked about hand sanitizer stations. There are stations at Choate and outside of the building at Oakland.

Phase 2:

If all goes well, June 8th the fields will open for contact sports practices and drills, but games and tournaments will not be allowed. Ms. Harrington commented the Town Administrator had an idea to have a member from the Recreation Committee Board of Health speak with field users and that will include the COVID Waiver in addition to the field permit. Ms. Rossi volunteered to meet on behalf of the Board for that purpose. Ms. Harrington stated with the size of the fields it is feasible to have different groups spaced out. She is hoping there will be more clarifications in the future. There was a brief discussion about the use of Porta Potties. The guidelines indicate daily cleaning. Ms. Harrington commented on placing a posting on each potty saying, "Use at your own risk."

Dog Park – Ms. Harrington stated it is scheduled to open on Friday. Dogs must be leashed and six feet apart from other dogs. Department of Public Health guidelines should be followed – no groups larger than ten. Users should clean their hands and dogs should be under voice control. If social distancing cannot be maintained, masks should be worn in accordance with COVID-19 Executive Order No. 31.

Summer Concerts – Ms. Harrington stated Thayer House is closed through end of July. There was a discussion about using Oakland, which has bigger parking lot, one of the other parks or the VFW to host the summer concerts. The first concert is scheduled for July 6th. Ms. Harrington will reach out to the bands, but she does know the performers for the second concert are still interested.

Farmer's Market – Ms. Harrington spoke with Allison Dempsey and the market will be on hold until after July 4th.

Phase 3:

Open for games and tournaments for groups under public health guidance.

Phase 4:

The new normal.

Summer Field Requests/Summer Programming:

Ms. Harrington is currently working on the new summer schedule. She went on to say there are some nights where the fields are completely booked. The Goldstar Lacrosse Tournament will take place August 8th and 9th, but unsure about the Massachusetts High School Lacrosse event and still waiting on guidance from Governor Baker. Mr. Murphy asked during Phase 3 if athletes participating in contact have to wear masks and can there be spectators. Ms. Harrington was not sure if spectators will be allowed, but stated if social distancing isn't possible, then masks should be worn. Mr. Logan is looking at a regular summer and fall program, but fall has not been discussed yet. Ms. Harrington noted they have one night a week scheduled for June and July. Soccer is cancelled for spring, but the organizers are looking for fields in July and August for tryouts. Baseball is thinking about tournaments in August. Flag football users said they are looking at different towns and will most likely go with the town with the least restrictions. Ms. Harrington had not yet heard from club soccer teams for the fall.

Ms. Harrington went on to say Medway Pride Day will most likely be moved to September. She hasn't heard anything about Celebrate Medway Day.

Football and Cheer Camp are cancelled. The high school girls' basketball clinic will most likely be cancelled. The Fishing Derby will be done virtually for two weeks. There will be categories; participants will fish where they want and upload pictures. Ms. Harrington was unsure about Wild Wednesdays, but stated she is still planning Choate Summer since it is in August and smaller numbers, but she will keep the Board up to date on that.

Mr. Tudino asked about the town cutting expenses after an email he saw from the Superintendent of Schools about the projected budget and State aid going down ten to twenty percent. Mr. Pelletier stated Public Works cut \$800,000.00 from the road budget to use where needed.

There will be another meeting in the next couple of weeks about summer fields' requests.

Fall fields:

Ms. Harrington has not had a chance to look at the preliminary schedule for fall sports and will begin working on that schedule. She will be meeting in the next week or so about youth field hockey and swim league, but she was pretty sure swim will be cancelled.

Director's update:

Ms. Harrington received an email from Old School about having free practices for kids to come down and use the fields once Phase 2 begins. The Board was in favor of not charging for that hour. In regards to the Warrant for the upcoming Town Meeting, the \$250,000 engineering for pickle ball was coming off and \$40,000 was put under Capital Improvements for pickle ball and softball field engineering.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tudino and seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the remote meeting via Zoom at 8:25 p.m. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

