



Town of Weare Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes December 12, 2023

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:05pm

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chair, Pam Moul; Vice Chair, David Lundeen; Denise Purington; Director, Lisa Grolljahn, Salim Blume Ex-Officio.

EXCUSED: N/A

NOT PRESENT:

Pledge of Allegiance

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sophia Lundeen with an update to her senior project for Chase park lost and found. Ms. Lundeen provided several drawings of her proposed design for a lost and found structure to house items left at the park. The members of the Commission felt the structure with both shelves and a hanging option for clothing items was their preferred choice. Ms. Lundeen indicated that a roof would be put over it. Ms. Purington suggested signage that indicates how long lost items will be kept and if not retrieved will be donated. Ms. Lundeen indicated she would have it done before April and before the 2024 season starts. No approval by motion is needed at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Purington made a motion to accept the public meeting minutes from October 10, 2023, October 17, 2023 and November 14, 2023. Mr. Lundeen seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Agenda Topics

Topic: Board of Selectman meeting regarding the East Road Property, November 27th,

Action Items: Ms. Purington provided an update. Ms. Purington did a presentation and fielded some questions from the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Purington provided her presentation and all documents she had to the BOS and the Conservation Commission prior to the meeting, a courtesy that was not afforded to her by the Conservation Commission or Ms. Mathews of the BOS. Ms. Mathews had obtained the two missing documents from the Russell foundation or Conservation Commission prior to the meeting but chose not to share them with Ms. Purington representing the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Blume indicated the entire BOS had received these documents not just Ms. Mathews and they all failed to share them Ms. Purington indicated that two documents had remained missing, the Purchase

agreement signed by the Russell Foundation. Because the Russell foundation is not part of the Town of Weare this document did not reside in the public folder held in Weare. Ms. Purington pointed out the Purchase agreement presented at the BOS meeting was a document signed by the Russell Foundation and no Purchase and Sales signed by a Town of Weare representative has been found. Mr. Blume indicated this is one question that has been submitted to Town Council regarding is the Purchase and Sale binding to the Town of Weare if not transferred to them. Ms. Purington indicated the Purchase and Sales signed by the Russell Foundation contained no promised of conservation easements for the front portion of the land. The second document shared by Ms. Mathews was a Zoning Board meeting minutes stamped October 11, 2011. The Russell Foundation on behalf of the selling went to the Zoning Board to request permission to relax the 5 acre minimum lot size requirement to allow a 3.55 acre lot. While the application for variance contained many reason as to why this was being requested including the possible future purchase of the land by the Town of Weare and possible conservation options the item being discussed and voted on was strictly to reduce the lot size requirement. Ms. Purington also read aloud section 1.f. which reads "Allow farmland fields to be part of the land the town purchases, which will then allow the town to make use of 7+ acres of open fields for a multitude of town uses; Including but not limited to: passive recreation, events and celebrations local agriculture, educational uses, ETC." She noted that this section specifically stated "not limited to" which means many other uses could occur. Legal will weigh in on this document also. Ms. Purington indicated that she obtained three sets of minutes from the Mildred Hall Foundation. One set of minutes indicated the land was not "prime farm property" and another set of minutes indicated that the field property would be a good enhancement for public events and parking. Ms. Purington indicated these minutes were important because several BOS have indicated that the Mildred Hall Foundation funded part of the purchase of this land under the understanding it would be put in conservation however their minutes do not reflect this. Ms. Purington also pointed out that the "Say Yes to Article 49" was created by a member of the Conservation Commission with 36 followers and no post on this page indicated that an easement was a part of this purchase. At this point a number of questions were set over to Town Council by the BOS for legal opinion before any resolution will be made. The are, who gets to manage this property, did the warrant article lapse and did the property get assigned to the Town. Ms. Purington reminded the BOS that Parks and Recreation is in support of using this property for fields and that currently there is a urgent need for fields and Parks and Recreation has no funding to purchase additional land. Ms. Purington brought up RSA 79 Land Use Tax. Currently 25% of this tax collected goes back to the general budget and 75% goes to the Conservation Commission. There is an opportunity to look at changing this through a warrant article. Ms. Purington also informed the Commission that she was spoken to by a Conservation Commission member after the BOS meeting in a not so positive tone and that she has reported the interaction to both a BOS member and the Town Administrator so it is on record.

Action Items: Nothing further can be done until the response from legal comes down. The warrant article requesting money for an engineering study for this property has been placed on hold.

Topic: Holiday Meal for Seniors

Ms. Purington indicated that the total cost was \$471.64. Most of this was funded by a donation of Hannaford cards so only approximately \$50 came out of Parks and Recreation budget. Ms. Purington indicated that the seniors provided very positive feedback. Take home containers were given to those who wanted them. Leftover items were donated to the school. The students were great and did most of the work. Ms. Purington indicated that seniors suggested a summer BBQ at the lake. Ms. Purington made notes so that if we did it again next year we would know what we would need more of. A shout out to the Public Library for their assistance in getting folks to sign up and get tickets.

Action Items: Thank You Card will be sent to the Weare Middle School.

Topic: Budget

Ms. Grolljahn indicated all bills have been submitted. As of this meeting there is a surplus in the Parks and Recreation budget. Discussion took place regarding purchasing some supplies for Chase Park for 2024 with some of the remaining money.

Action Items: The members agreed to purchase locks for gates at Bolton Field, Ineson Field, supplies for Chase park such as toilet paper and cleaning supplies and some additional decorations for the Gazebo.

Topic: Ineson Field

The well pump still needs repair.

Action Items: This will need to be addressed in the spring.

Topic: Bolton

We still have quote to repair sandbox at Bolton. Also to address the footprint of the playground and should we look at opportunities to reduce the footprint.

Action Items: To address this in the spring.

Topic: Chase Park

DPW has looked at the trees and feels they are out of scope for their ability specifically because they are very tall and power lines are involved. They believe a crane may be needed and/or have Eversource drop the powerlines. They believe it will be in the ballpark of Ten thousand dollars to have these trees removed. A discussion took place as to who made the determination that the trees need to come down. Have we had an expert come and make an assessment regarding what trees if any need to be removed. Discussion regarding ramp repair. Eagle Scout bench project is completed. The benches are being stored at Chase for the winter.

Action Items: Discuss at future meeting having an expert come in to do an assessment. Mr. Lundeen will contact DPW regarding repair of the ramp.

Topic: Gazebo

Other than replacement of benches in the spring no new business.

Action Items: None at this time

Topic: Skate Park

Eagle Scout has fixed all items identified by the insurance company. Next steps will be to present to Board of Selectmen.

Action Items: Eagle Scout to present to Board of Selectmen for final approval.

Topic: New Members and polices and bi-laws

Ms. Moul indicated that there has been at least one application for becoming a member of the Commission. This individual will need to attend one Commission meeting and then go before the BOS for approval. She also mentioned we need to review our polices and bi-laws

Action Items: Ms. Moul to follow up with potential new member. At our 2024 meetings we will address our policies and bi-laws.

Next Meeting: January 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM

MEETING ADJOURNED: Ms. Purington made a motion under RSA 91-A:3(II)(c) to go into non public meeting and then to adjourn, it was seconded by Ms. Grolljahn, by rollcall all were in favor. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Minutes Recorded by Denise Purington