

Town of Canton
Parks and Recreation Commission
General Meeting
Wednesday June 22, 2016
7:00PM

Present: Rebecca Andrews, Chris Eckert, Elaine Vallo, Ben Holden, Brian Miller and Joshua Medeiros, Director of Parks and Recreation. Absent Todd Jacobs and Julius Fialkiewicz.

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm by Chris Eckert.

Approval of Minutes from 5-16-2016: Elaine Vallo made a motion to approve the 5-16-16 minutes. Rebecca seconded, all present in favor.

Park Project Updates:

Pool Opening: Director Medeiros informed the commission that Mills Pond Pool has been opened for the season on June 11th and for the most part operations have been running smoothly.

Outdoor Power Box: Director Medeiros informed the commission that work had been completed on the outdoor power box and would be used at the first summer concert series on June 30th. Additionally, John Fitts from the Canton Compass met with Director Medeiros to discuss the concert series and the power box (donated by the Canton Lion's Club).

Dog Park: Director Medeiros informed the commission that the Friends of the Dog Park group are is a 501c3 non-profit organization and they are continuing work on the project. Director Medeiros mentioned that the Friends of the Dog Park were heard at the June Wetlands meeting where they discussed preliminary plans of the project with the Wetlands Commission.

Skate Park: Director Medeiros informed the commission that the new Skate Park design was approved at the Wetlands Commission meeting on June 9th. Bob Skinner has sent an official contract to Rampage. The final stage will be for the Planning and Zoning Commission to review and hopefully approve the project at the July 20th meeting. Work can commence after final approvals.

Review of Fee Structures:

Skate Park: Commissioner Chris Eckert had mentioned at the May meeting that the group should review the possibility of a skate park membership. Director Medeiros stated that the park would not be fenced in so it would be impossible to enforce, additionally charging a fee for skate park use is not common for municipal skate parks. The commission briefly discussed the topic and decided against it at this time.

Pavilions: The commission reviewed the existing fee structures for rental of pavilions at Mills Pond Park. While the fees are low, the commission agreed that increasing the fees was not needed at this time. Chris Eckert recommended we look into purchasing signage at the pavilions to help inform the public that they are available for rental and also to help support individual's that rent the pavilions.

Mills Pond Pool: Director Medeiros presented a packet of pool membership/daily drop in trends from 2011 through present day. Historically the pool memberships have been up and down but have

consistently been down the past few years. Director Medeiros said he will present the final 2016 numbers at the end of the summer so the commission can review whether the trend is continuing. Additionally, the commission reviewed the fee structure at Avon and Simsbury Pools comparing to Canton fees. Rebecca Andrews made a motion to raise the 2017 household memberships to \$115.00 for residents and \$170.00 for non-residents to be closer with Avon fees. Chris Eckert seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The commission agreed to revisit the other memberships in the future. Additionally, they requested demographics information regarding Canton population to see if there are correlations to the memberships.

Fields: Presently the Canton Parks and Recreation Department doesn't charge for use of town fields. There was lengthy discussion regarding whether or not it was appropriate to charge fees as resident tax dollars are presently funding field maintenance. Additionally, Ben Holden felt he did not want to charge fees which may discourage Canton youth from being active. The commission agreed they did not want to charge a fee to Canton based teams at this time. Ben Holden made a motion to begin charging \$5.00 per participant, per use for non-resident or for-profit groups. Non-resident or for-profit groups that are looking for seasonally use of town fields could negotiate a seasonal rate with the Director of Parks and Recreation. Rebecca Andrews seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

Adjournment: Elaine Vallo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27pm. Brian Miller seconded, all present in favor.