



Minutes
Parks and Recreation Committee
Monday, January 4, 2021; 4:30 PM
By Remote Meeting

The public may participate in the Committee meeting by joining the zoom meeting (details provided at the end of the agenda). Those wishing to attend the meeting must have a phone (listen only, no participation) or a computer (video viewing only with audio participation). The Committee members reserve the right to block any attendees who join the meeting using offensive names or who attempt to disrupt the meeting.

ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER - meeting called to order at 4:31 pm EST by Chairman Veilleux. In attendance were Greg Veilleux, Amy Schwartz, Jeff Dobbs, John Kelly, Tommy Parham, and Bethany Leavitt.

ITEM 2 EXCUSED ABSENCES (s) - none

ITEM 3

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: There have been no emails received and no public comments on the Zoom call.

ITEM 4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – moved by John Kelly, seconded by Jeff Dobbs – motion passes unanimously.
Minutes of December 7, 2020

ITEM 5 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – moved by Jeff Dobbs, seconded by John Kelly – motion passes unanimously.

ITEM 6 REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. Village Green Bandstand: Town Band Expansion Proposed Plan.** – Brian Booher spoke with the committee noting the use of the bandstand by the town band – introduced Dwight Lanpher who has worked on the plan presented. Mr. Dobbs asked the architect regarding the costs, which have not been configured at this time as more information would be needed. Mr. Kelly asked about measurements. The new one would be 33 ft diameter the previous is 21’10”. This did not include overhang, the new one would have an overhang with a diameter of 38ft. It was confirmed the walkway around would need to be replaced also. A structural engineer is needed to refine details and that will help with providing costs. Mr. Lanpher stated they had waited to determine costs to see how the committee feels regarding design.

Mr. Kelly asked about the permanence of the risers in the bandstand. Mr. Lanpher noted that the space in front of the risers being the space that the current bandstand is. He also noted that the risers could be used by other groups and for seating. Also noted was an additional aspect of the plan that includes storage for the chairs. The risers would be concrete, railings would be wood. Mr. Kelly noted that he would like to keep the space with the same use outside of the band, with keeping the full railing.

Questioned how many concerts regularly occur, there are 18 concerts per year done by the Town Band.

There will be electrical included in the design.

Jeff Dobbs moved to accept this proposed plan to move to the next level, which would include construction documents and price estimate.

Bethany asked how funding would occur for this project. We would have to look at the CIP fund. She stated that irrigation and such would need to be considered regarding costs.

Mr. Kelly stated he would like to see us move to the process of finding out how we proceed with costs associated. He would also like to keep historical aesthetic and who would be the best to reach out to for that.

Mr. Dobbs asked Mr. Lanpher if he would continue this project through the design and cost estimate. Mr. Lanpher said he would contact some structural engineers for their opinion on build materials, but he would not be the lead architect on this project as he is looking to retire in the next year.

Bethany said there is \$1500 a year put in. Right now, there is a little over 13k in the bandstand budget.

Mr. Lanpher said it would cost 2-3 thousand.

Mr. Dobbs noted that the VIA has interest in this project and could possibly help with funding.

Mr. Lanpher said this is next level which would get to about 50% of the process which would still need an architect for getting a completed design.

As this is a complete rebuild, we will need other eyes on the project as noted by Mr. Kelly.

Ms. Leavitt noted a chat on Zoom regarding this subject which mentioned ACT and SFOA would have interest in using the expanded bandstand.

With verbiage from Ms. Leavitt, Jeff Dobbs moved for the bandstand from this concept to the next level with a structural engineer assessment and to include a financial estimate with a review of the plans. John Kelly seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

- B. Glen Mary Ice Rink.** – Mr. Veilleux mentioned a letter from Andy Shea that was sent to the committee about the nostalgia of the Glen Mary rink and how could we get back to that. Mr. Dobbs stated that there was a paid attendee for the ice rink and then it moved to an honor system which people that used it would come in and shovel it after a storm. The town's responsibility was to spray some water to get it to freeze and get it ready to be on the rink.
- Ms. Leavitt stated this was a paid position under the Parks & Rec budget and that position was voted on in 2004 by town council to remove it from the budget and go to the honor system with community assisting with clearing the snow from the rink.

Ms. Leavitt noted that the highway department currently monitors when to open the rink, due to whether it is safe or not. Using water to freshen up the ice did not always work well, especially with the spring underneath. Now it is cleaned off sometime with a plow, but this is low on priority list. Roads and sidewalk plowing come first along with disposing of snow within allotted time.

Mr. Shea's email sounded more like the town could bring back. However, there are no groups volunteering for this.

Previously there was a position that was paid for this, but it is not currently on the public works schedule nor do they have staffing to make this a priority. She stated what would be the expectation? For example, with current staffing there would not be the ability to have this maintained and ready a day after a storm. The position just went away but there is not much information that could be found.

Mr. Dobbs asked Mr. Parham if there was any interest with the Y using the ice rink. Mr. Parham noted this day in time there are liabilities associated with ice rinks. Although there are nostalgic feelings about things like ice skating it does not mean that this is something that kids might be interested in.

Mr. Kelly stated that it's not a consistent thing with maintaining ice as it was 20-30 years ago. Mr. Veilleux said to look at the ice rink at COA for example of usability.

Mr. Kelly stated it would be best to table this as this is not something, we have funds to pursue and that if a group of volunteers was interested that would be different discussion. Members the committee all agreed. Bethany stated she would be reaching out to Mr. Shea about this.

- C. Major Special Events Application Deadline: Pandemic Influence on Deadline of February 1 for 2021 Events.** John said we should keep the deadline but be flexible on approvals. As the application fees were to be rolled over from 2020, the committee stated that if they had to push this year's applications due to COVID, these fees should be rolled over also. Discussion including stating that we would be flexible with applications as CDC guidelines change and may need to include the withdrawal of an application if needed.
- D. Public Works Update.** Ms. Leavitt said the Harbor Park railing project should be starting this week. She met with the team to discuss logistics. The company said it is a weeks' worth of installation and could be completed at the end of that week or the following week.

The public work employees looked at the benches for the current condition of benches in park. For Agamont Park one rated as a "fail." The others had poor benches, 8 for example in the Village Green. The staff said these are not maintenance friendly. Under the classification of poor how much life is left on that bench – should be fixable. Benches, bike racks and pergola receive around 10 grand a year put in. The current balance is just under 33k and they are 3 grand a bench. These are not the best bench design for maintaining. Village Green benches are the oldest. We need to look at aesthetics along with strength and life out of the bench. It was noted the largest issue with the benches in the ironwood. It has lasted for its life expectancy. Ms. Leavitt will investigate this further so we can discuss her findings and how the committee will proceed.

ITEM 7 OTHER BUSINESS – Mr. Veilleux mentioned the wooded area and use of Glen Mary park and how they should possibly include a bench or two – even a few older ones. Mr. Kelly asked about this not being town property. The town has a lease on the pool area and woods. Mr. Dobbs moved to ask the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association about the concept of making Glen Mary park more accessible by cleaning up the trails making the park more accessible to the public by adding benches on the trails. Seconded by Amy Schwartz. The town leases the area from the VIA and the motion would be checking to ensure the lease allows for benches to be added.

Mr. Kelly asked to table to this for a future date to get more information before we propose changes. The ten-year lease that started in 2014. Mrs. Schwartz withdrew her second and Mr. Dobbs withdrew his motion.

Mr. Dobbs asked Bethany if the Skate Park could maintain the green around the skate park. Mr. Kelly said this should be the towns responsibility. Bethany stated she would investigate the maintenance of that park.

ITEM 8

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA -

Mr. Dobbs wanted to thank Brian Booher and Dwight Lanpher for presenting today even though they had already left the meeting.

ITEM 9 NEXT MEETING DATE – move to February if anything is pressing. First Monday is February 1st 2021

ITEM 10

ADJOURNMENT –

Jeff Dobbs moved to adjourn the meeting; John Kelly seconded. Motion passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 614pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy M. Schwartz
committee Vice Chair & Secretary