

**TOWN OF LINCOLN
PARKS AND RECREATION MONTHLY MEETING
August 10, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Commission members present were Chairman John Sharkey, Frank Kelly, Frank Morin, William Goho, and Chris Cutler. Scott Winslow and Michael Gagnon were also in attendance.

A motion was made by member Chris Cutler, and was seconded by member Frank Kelly to accept the minutes from the June 8th meeting. The minutes were accepted.

Director's Report:

Scott reported that they are getting new basketball nets at all of the parks.

National Night Out was moved to Manville. The Manville field is open, but no lines yet. The field looks good, and LYSA will get first priority on it. The town has signed off on it. We did go out to bid and RAD Sports won the bid. They will be taking care of, fertilizing it, cutting it, and making sure irrigation is running properly. Chris reported that he has 650 kids who signed up for soccer this season between Rec and Competitive. They will disperse the kids between LA, Manville, the Middle School field, and the little field at Lonsdale. Only problem with the Manville field is we don't have lights. The only field with lights is the Middle School field. Chris stated that they are aware that they don't want to overuse the Manville field, but that there are three fields there. Chris requested putting signs up stating that field use is "by permit only" so coaches don't have to worry about not getting onto the field. Scott reported that someone reached out to them about lining the fields with a new technology. Chris is getting Scott and Leslie the dimensions for the three fields so we can have the man line it with the new technology.

The final week of the summer program is this week. The numbers are down a little maybe because of the heat wave. Overall the program is going really well. The tennis program ends today. The track program is going well. They are having three concerts this summer with the last one being on Sept 3rd with Those Guys. Should be a big concert with a send off to summer. After these programs end, we can focus on some of the catch up of the maintenance. The grass is burnt at most of the parks. The water is on, but most places are having the same issue. We will be getting ready for all of the fall programs. The bleachers are all set, just waiting for the last one to be placed at Albion.

Commissioner's Report:

Saylesville- Chris Cutler – A lot more trash this month than in previous months. A tree limb was down on the playground, but it was picked up. A broken pop-up tent has been there for two weeks. The softball sponsor signs are down on the ground in the warning track. In the bathroom, there was toilet paper all over the floor and the lights were on. The chalk is back on the building. The curb was spray painted with RIP. The grass is dead, no irrigation? Has fertilization been done? The infield looked good. The basketball court looked good. John reported that one of the batting cage poles closest to the building is bent and looks as though something ran into it. Saylesville is in need of a sign. The woodchips need to be replaced. There has been a lot of traffic there on the weekends with maybe birthday parties. Maybe we can empty the barrels on Mondays with the heavy traffic from the weekend. Arnold Park needs a sign. The grass is burnt, but being used a lot.

Lonsdale- John Sharkey reported that the grass is burnt. The flag needs to be replaced as it is hanging by one hook.

Albion- John Sharkey – The park looked good. Needs a park sign. The grass is burnt as it is everywhere. With this weather, it is tough to keep up with. Woodchips are needed in the playground area. Fencing repairs needed.

Manville- Frank Morin – The park is in good shape. On the soccer field, the fencing is down and there was a ribbon cutting. The grass on the soccer field is turning yellow. It is pretty clean. Someone in the neighborhood goes around every day picking up. Small numbers at the camp program this year. No new graffiti, but this is a little sometimes on the trash barrels. The basketball court has significant cracks with weeds growing through. The stone pathway is washing down into the court. The vandalism has stopped and is very quiet. Two swings are missing and one is broken. The seating in center field is broken with stone base.

Fairlawn- Andy Bruscini – Andy was not able to attend the meeting but sent me a report through email. The graffiti is gone except for the back door on the pavilion. Still damage on the back of the pavilion. The basketball court is missing a rim and net. The weeds are taking over around the back of the fence around the back of the field. Trimming needs to be done on the Cecile Street side and along the outfield fence. It would be nice to get updates about the Manville Park project.

Limerock- Frank Kelly – Lime Acres looks good. They are cleaning out a lot of trees and it looks good. The backfield looks great with the bleachers. At the basketball court, there is a broken bench missing two cross beams. There was some trash maybe from camp. Need a park sign. The tennis courts are being used a lot.

Quinville- William Goho – The park is in good shape overall. Seems like a destination for lunch. The barrels do fill up. The grounds look good despite a little debris. The basketball court is busy and the net is coming down a little.

Old Business:

A)Identify available recreationalspace: See Attached list: The Narrows-hazardous waste issue that would need to be capped and very expensive. Would need a non-profit organization to go in. The area behind the Middle School was an issue for students to cross under the power lines, but is it an issue for league kids to cross under? We should look into that space. Chris was saying what can we do to bring more people into these areas. We aren't necessarily talking about more fields, but even picnic areas or recreational areas. Scott reported that Al Ranaldi left the Town, but we will be getting a new Town Planner shortly. Maybe whoever the new person is could give some suggestions, or at least look into certain areas. John stated that we do not have enough space for school sports and recreational sports so we need to constantly be looking somewhere for more space! Mike Gagnon reported that the Pit at the High School is underutilized, and there is a small space between Chet Nichols and the tennis courts that maybe could be used for something. Mike stated that he will look into the Middle School space size and find out what the deal is! John also stated that maybe if we just added lighting to some of the existing parks, these spaces could be used longer and later.

B)Fencing and Bleacher update: All bleachers are assembled and placed at the park except for one last one going in at Albion. There was four parks that needed fencing. We went back out to bid because the prior bid was too high. Scott stated that based on that new bid, we basically have to just concentrate on one park. Scott picked Lime Acres backfield to make a space for the girls to have a dugout area, and the front field at Lime Acres to have a fence down the third base side. We don't want anyone to get hit by foul balls. We need to look at the budget to get the rest of the parks done. The numbers came in too high to be able to get everything we wanted done.

C)Proposed new Physical Education Center: The meetings continue every week. Should have ground breaking in early September.

D)Maintenance for Fall Sports: Scott had stated that once the summer programs end, we could focus more attention on maintenance for the fall activities. Scott reported that they outsourced the bathroom cleaning to a company that was cleaning them three times a week. We might make it less times as activities wrap up.

New Business:

A)Review Summer program for kids: The summer program is ending this week and has been very successful. The numbers are down at all of the parks right now, but he thinks that might be because of the heat wave.

B)Chase Farm activities: There is another summer concert on September 3rd with Those Guys. This should be a pretty big concert. We have been fortunate this year with the weather. Also, the Hearthside House is hosting an event called Bewitched and Bedazzled-A magical Fall Festival. The Civil War reenactment is taking place at Chase Farm on September 10-11th. Also, the town is hosting its first Farmer's Market at Chase Farm on August 20th. We will see how this event goes, and then maybe we can plan more for next year.

John asked all commission members if the checklist form for the parks each month should be changed? Scott stated that he definitely likes when everyone makes comments on the sheet. John stated that if anything needs to be modified to let us know. Chris suggested maybe getting a master key or key box to each park to the bathrooms and the lights at the park to be able to help with situations that may arise. Scott will look into it. Scott did point out that the only problem with a master lock is that would give access everywhere. He is going to check in with other towns to see how they handle it.

Chris Cutler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and member Frank Kelly seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.