

TOWN OF LINCOLN
PARKS AND RECREATION MONTHLY MEETING

April 12, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Commission members present were Chairman John Sharkey, Andy Bruscini, Sean Gaughan, Frank Kelly, Frank Morin, and Chris Cutler.

Scott Winslow, Parks & Recreation Director, and Phil Gould, Town Administrator, were also in attendance.

A motion was made by member Chris Cutler, and was seconded by member Andy Bruscini to accept the minutes from the March 8th meeting.

Director's Report:

Scott's main focus has been on getting the parks ready for the spring. The Lime Acres front field is the last one to do. The water is getting turned on April 16th as a target date. Lonsdale is already all set. RAD and fitness program has ended. Woman's basketball is coming to an end. Colour's league is going through May 9th, and the men's basketball is still going strong. Youth field hockey and lacrosse are taking place. We are also getting prepared for the summer programs.

Phil Gould thanked all of the commission members for all that they do! Nice to have an extra set of eyes. The Manville and Albion basketball courts are going in the budget to be replaced. The last time they just had band aid fixes. These are neighborhood parks, and Phil wants to make sure they are safe. We need the resolution to pass at the Financial Town Meeting. Phil also made a recommendation to the budget board to fix Turner Field behind the Middle School. Quote of \$940,000 to fix it, and 75 % of the project can be reimbursed from RIDE. Phil also put in the budget to get a well put in to water. Andy asked if we are putting turf in at the Middle school? No, we will not be doing turf, but will be installing irrigation and fixing the drainage problem. The middle school field is currently so mushy and out of commission a lot. John Sharkey asked if the courts will be constructed differently than the last time? Phil stated that the courts will now be constructed the right way taking it all completely out and replacing it. John asked if we have any courts in town that were constructed the right way?

Phil Gould is asking for all town residents to please come out on May 8th to the FTM. We need the support of people to show up to get these projects passed. Recreation and fields in Lincoln are very important. John suggested to all of the different sports represented at this meeting to reach out to your contacts via email and ask everyone to attend the FTM.

Phil reported that the driveway of Lime Acres will be getting done shortly out of this years budget. The project is currently out to bid and we want it started before July 1st. It is in bad shape. Maybe we can put in a speed bump to stop the speeding at Lime Acres once it's fixed to

control the speed. At the senior center, they are also replacing the hibachi court roof and putting in a new court. A lot of improvements are happening.

Phil said thank you so much to all of the commission members for all that you do!

Commissioner's Report:

Saylesville- Chris Cutler – There has been a litter increase around the basketball court, but it has been picked up since he told Scott about it. A lot more adults using the basketball court. The barrels at Arnold Park are overflowing. The chalk has increased significantly with an Instagram name now on there. We need woodchips in the playground once the drainage is fixed. The fence/gate closest to Saylesville school is open and we need it closed. The basketball court is cracked. The batting cage is not up yet. We need a sign at Arnold Park. The fence was fixed at Arnold Park. The protectors at the top of the fence at Sullivan Field have been fixed except for two of them. There is a porta john there that the school put but it's locked. John stated that the school locking the porta john is a selfish act. What about local leagues? We wouldn't do that to them.

Lonsdale- Sean Gaughan – The Park looks really good. Hien and Sam Moore look really good. The town did a ton of work and everything was picked up. The school playground still needs to be fixed. We need to get the gravel compacted. The road around the fields needs to be fixed because of parent pickup. The fix should be on the school department to fill in the holes in the road. There is also graffiti on the electrical box to Hien.

Albion- John Sharkey – The Park looks great! The field is edged and the grass is green. The bathrooms still aren't open. The building has cracked siding and it looks like someone is throwing a ball against the side of the building. Is there any extra materials that we have that can be used to fix the siding?

Manville- Frank Morin – Looking really good! Very little litter. No new graffiti. The baseball field and dugouts look great. The town is looking into fixing the basketball court cracks. The soccer field looks great. A park sign is needed. The geese haven't really been a problem. They have only been there for probably two or three days this month.

Fairlawn- Andy Bruscini – There have been some improvements this month. The pavilion looks nice. The hole, vinyl siding and the light were fixed. The pickleball court needs to be fixed. The mold on the pavilion needs to be cleaned. One of the basketball poles is missing the padding. The sign is up for no dogs. The plate on the baseball field looks like it is moved up, maybe not measured out right? Andy talked to one of the coaches, Troy Mellen, and he stated that the plate was definitely moved up. Really good improvement. First base has leaves. The playground looks great. Definitely can see improvements this month!

Limerock- Frank Kelly – The park is in good shape. There is a new shed at the front field. The gate on the back tennis court is laying on side. Scott has the bench, so once all of the fields are

good, that will be one of the first things we will do. We need a park sign. The road is bad! The back field is good.

Quinville- William Goho – One barrel was full. No graffiti. One small area still needs repair on the fencing. The bench in the playground area needs to be refinished.

- John Sharkey stated that Scott's laborers should be commended on getting the fields ready this year. Nice job! John's only complaint is the water not being turned on until the 16th. Other towns turn the water on April 1st.
- Sean Gaughan asked if we can bring back the golf tournament again in August as a fundraiser?

Old Business:

- A) **Identify available recreational space:** Andy asked how much land does the town own at Notte Park? Scott stated that we would have to look into it. We would also have to make sure that its not wetlands before we can even look. It would need to be surveyed.
- B) **Leaf pickup at the Parks:** All parks have been picked up. Only place that needs attention is the first base at Fairlawn.
- C) **Cameras in the parks:** The town is looking to put a few more in.

New Business:

- A) **Plans for Middle School field renovation:**
- B) **Plan for field light replacement (Sullivan):** We should reach out to Bruce Whitehead. Who replaces the lights, the town or the school?
- C) **Discuss the use of the PEC:** It is really looking good except for upper 1/3 of the building which is waiting on windows and trim that are back ordered. Lincoln Lions also needs to be put on the building. They started the inside. The floor is the next step to come. There is a holdup with an electrical box. The box is on back order and might be a real holdup. John asked who decides who uses this building? Hopefully the town can use the building as well as the school. There is a committee being put together for building management.

Special guest: John Illuzzi

John Illuzzi came as a special guest to talk about the Lincoln Youth Basketball league and his hopes for being able to use the new PEC center. This is his second year running LYB. We have hosted some games and it typically runs as a 10-12 week season. Last year, we had 9 teams 4th through 8th grade with approximately 91 players, 98 % of the kids which are from Lincoln. We need practice time. We run November through March. We use the elementary schools sometimes for the younger kids, and the Middle School occasionally. We can't offer kids all 9 o'clock time slots. 20 % of the budget last year was spent renting practice space. We had to use the Johnston facility, and the Boys and Girls club. \$4500 went to renting practice space, and our

teams definitely didn't practice enough. We are hopeful that the PEC will help! The school teams will still have priority, but hopefully we can get in there maybe with good time slots. We are trying to really build our younger teams, but they don't practice enough. The benefit to us using the schools at night is not having a custodial fee. The registration fee is \$300. The purpose of this program is to develop the kids to make better Middle School and High School teams. Kids will definitely get better with more practice. John asked if we could start the recreational program in November instead of January. He is hoping for kids to have basketball as a primary sport of basketball. Scott stated that we are in the same boat. Scott stated that it is really important to establish with the school when we are able to use the space. These are feeder programs to the High School teams. We will need to establish some type of scheduling with the school. Sean stated that with having these two extra gyms now, a 6 o'clock time slot should be feasible for them to get in. We need to make sure the school stays on there times. Frank Kelly stated that he hopes that the actual blocks that the school says is for them better not just walk out like she usually does. Maybe adults that are town residents, maybe make it a multi – use for the town. We need to put together a list. John stated that pickleball is becoming very popular. We really need to be careful. John Sharkey thanked John Illuzzi for coming tonight. We appreciate the work you do.

Andy Bruscini made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and member Sean Gaughan seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.