

TOWN OF LINCOLN
PARKS AND RECREATION MONTHLY MEETING
February 12, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 4:58 pm. Commission members present were Chairman John Sharkey, Andy Bruscini, Sean Gaughan, Frank Kelly, Frank Morin, William Goho, and Chris Cutler. Grace Gervais, Assistant Parks and Rec Director was also in attendance.

A motion was made by Andy Bruscini and was seconded by member Frank Kelly to accept the minutes from the January 8th meeting. The minutes were accepted.

Director's Report: Scott wasn't present but sent me his report and Grace was present at the meeting.

Parks are relatively quiet due to the weather. We continue to perform mild maintenance (snow removal, repairs when needed). Overall the parks are in good condition, with no new vandalism to report. Our programs continue to strive, with our basketball skills program / leagues continuing to run well. These are scheduled to end the first week of March. Other programs that are currently on going include Intro to Chess, Pound Fitness, and Adult Yoga. We have many programs scheduled to begin in March. These include Adult Aerobics, Adult Pickleball, Middle School Basketball, Dos Amigos (Men's pick-up league), Women's pick-up basketball, STEM Logos (RIDE 360) and Youth Lacrosse.

Update on Capitol Projects –

Earlier this month, The Town Administrator, Public Works Director, and myself met with the Lincoln High School to look over the designs they have been working on for the signage at the parks. After reviewing the designs, we did choose one that we think would be best suited for our parks. We submitted some minor changes to the original design and are just waiting for these to be completed and submitted. Once the corrections are made we will begin the process of going out to bid. The hope is to have these signs installed by May. As mentioned in our previous meeting, the design for the pickleball courts have been submitted to DEM and we are waiting on approval. Once approved, we can then take the next step in preparing this to go out for bid. In regards to the cameras, the electrical permit has been pulled, and work is underway at Manville Park.

The middle school field (not a recreation project) has been awarded and is also awaiting DEM approval.

As for spring preparation, I'm asking the leagues to please submit their request for field usage ASAP. Please take into consideration that water will be turned on depending on the weather. Our goal is the same as every year, with April 15 as the target date. I do

know some may begin practice prior to this date but please make note of the April 15 target date (bathrooms will be offline until water is turned on).

Finally, we continue to start preparing for our spring / summer events. This includes farmers markets, summer concerts, and memorial day weekend parade / festivities.

Commissioner's Report:

Saylesville- Chris Cutler – Winter is upon us. Saylesville is not being used at all between the cold and the construction. Arnold Park is used a little. The cross beams at Arnold Park need to be replaced in the Spring. Chris reached out to Mario last month and he is still waiting on the update about Saylesville from their meeting. Saylesville is losing a ton of space because of the construction of the gym. We need to get creative with space whether we take the basketball court away or something. The construction project will definitely infringe on the summer park program. The project is well underway and they were pouring cement for the footings today.

Lonsdale- Sean Gaughan – They started digging and the forms are up. The building might get hit with a home run at some point because of the location right next to baseball field. This is a bad spot to choose for the building. Some people have been walking dogs but not many people around.

Albion- John Sharkey – Snow covered park. All of the gates in the park are open including the one to the right of the building. The gates really need to be closed to keep people from driving on the field, and dogs off of the field.

Manville- Frank Morin – The park is very quiet and only really cars there in the morning and at lunch. Some people have been walking to the park with their pets. The same issues remain with the graffiti and the picnic tables. The pavilion is worn and needs repairs. All things that need to be fixed are for the Spring and everything else looks ok.

Fairlawn- Andy Bruscini – The park is snow covered and no one really there. The basketball pole covers are still on. The pole for the camera is sticking out of the ground with no camera on it.

Limerock- Frank Kelly – Not much usage of the park in the snow.

Quinville- William Goho – Prior to the last snow storm, people were still attending the park. No activity since the snow. Nothing needs immediate attention, just things for the Spring. Snow covered.

Old Business:

- A) **Elementary School Gyms:** Construction is underway at all locations. John stated that we are seeing a ton of space taken away from mainly Saylesville and Lonsdale from the construction of the gyms. We need a park with multiple fields. It is going to get really tight for space. Saylesville is used for softball, soccer and football, and now the space is gone except for the softball field. Someone has to

stick up for the open space at these parks. John asked Grace if she knew what percentage of open space we have. If we thought we needed more space before, it's even worse now!

- B) **Middle School Field Project**: The bid was awarded. We are waiting on DEM approval.
- C) **Parks & Rec Basketball**: The younger kids program ends on March 8th. Then, the Colours League will start and this has great numbers. The women's and men's league start in March as well. Numbers are rolling in for these too. John asked how competitive the men's league is? Grace said the men's 30 + league is a good group of guys, but it does get a little competitive.

New Business:

- A) **Pickle Ball Courts**: When will this project start? We are waiting for DEM approval.
- B) **Sports Field Opportunities**: We have a need for fields. Gymnasiums are great but now they are taking up so much room in the parks. Chris stated that once we see where the walls are going at Saylesville, then we should make a plan. Mario has been very receptive. It is important for the Town to still have spots at these parks for open space, especially for the summer program. Sean reported too that the basketball courts are important too, and we are now taking courts away as well. Lonsdale was already so dangerous for parking without adding this gym. Parking will be rough on River Rd. Chris suggested to wait until we see the plans. He will reach back out to Mario to see.

John asked when the signs for the parks will be printed? Can we the commission get a look at the signs before they are printed? Can Robin send us all a picture? Grace will let Scott know about the signs question and he will get back to you.

John stated that April 15th for the bathrooms opening is always a problem with baseball. John would like to speak with Leslie Quish at some point about this issue.

Grace said the cameras have been underway in Manville. Cory has been in contact with CSI, the camera company. Grace will ask if Cory can talk to Scott and give us more details. John's point is that we should know where the cameras are going? Grace will get Scott to get back to you. Chris stated that he is assuming that Cory is working closely with the Town Administrator and the police to find the best places for the cameras within the problem areas. Frank Morin stated that at Manville, the problem areas are at the concession stand and the shed back towards the water. Frank Kelly asked how many cameras are going in each park? Sean stated to make sure it is worthy of what we need to catch? Chris asked if there was a permit for electrical yet? Is the permit based on location? We need to push permits to the front to move it along. John pointed out that Lime Acres Park is so stretched out. You might need a few cameras there. Grace will definitely get Scott to get back to you guys.

No public comment.

Andy Bruscini made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and member Chris Cutler seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.