

**TOWN OF LINCOLN**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION MONTHLY MEETING**

**March 12, 2025**

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

A motion was made by Frank Kelly and was seconded by member Chris Cutler to accept the minutes from the February 12th meeting. The minutes were accepted.

**Director's Report:**

Scott reported that the past month has been very busy with the weather turning over and Spring approaching. Scott met with the Public Works Director, Leslie Quish, and the parks and recreation staff on a Spring maintenance schedule. The fields are thawing out still and any machines would damage the field right now. The cages are up at the parks, and by next month we are hoping we can get infield mix. Our goal is to have the fields ready by 4/1 but all depends on the weather. We will allow people in the outfield and batting cages right now, but no teams on the infield until they are ready. He is making a list of all Spring maintenance at all of the parks with the tables, graffiti, siding, painting, and repairs. He has also been in contact with RAD sports for the maintenance of Manville Field. There was vandalism to the flagpole at Manville Park which needs to be fixed, and we are thinking about some tree work there. The cameras were installed in Manville and Albion is next. Cameras are in progress in the remainder of the parks. The fence guard was received for Sullivan Field and he gave it to the school for them to put on after their sponsorship signs. He also put in for 16 replacement bulbs at Sullivan Field to replace all the week of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Scott sent over the prototype for the signs. The signs are the same at each park except for the name and a few minor changes to some wordage. We will be going out to bid and hope they are up sometime in the Spring. DEM approved the pickleball courts in Fairlawn. On March 25<sup>th</sup> the bids are due and it is in the newspaper now with an RFP.

There are some concerns with the new gyms at Lonsdale and Saylesville with the amount of space we have. We are looking at the impact the construction will have on the open space at the parks. The athletic director, public works director, the director of the school facilities, Scott, and Ahlborg met to discuss safe accessibility to Sullivan Field for softball. We communicated with softball and Little League to make sure everyone is safe and we keep the field open.

The parade is ongoing and RIDOT approved the plans.

The Middle School Field was awarded to Turf Specialties.

The basketball program ends for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, the men's and women's league started up. Pickleball, yoga, youth field hockey, lacrosse, and STEM will all be starting up soon.

### **Commissioner's Report:**

**Saylesville-** Chris Cutler – Arnold Park is in good shape. The cross beams on the fence need replacing. Park is in great shape. Woodchips were done last year. Not much to report on at Saylesville with the construction. The playground can be used during school. The basketball court has cracks but we should definitely hold off because it might make sense to make it more open space instead of a court. Chris spoke to Mario to get some plans. It doesn't make sense now to clean the wooded area if we aren't sure what it might be used for. John asked if parking is part of the plan? Chris says that it seems like it is part of the plan, and it should also eliminate the drainage problem. The batting cage is up and going along the first base side for this year. Since we won't be able to use the picnic tables under the pavilion this year, can we move them to the outfield so they can be used? John asked about the bleachers, and Scott responded that he will be moving them for right now. The building coming all the way from the existing school to the pavilion is taking away so much open space. Scott stated that we will have to move the summer project to Fairlawn. We know that a lot of kids walk to the park and it's not ideal, but it's the best option for safety. Chris also pointed out that the bathrooms won't be available for softball.

**Lonsdale-** Sean Gaughan – Sean was not in attendance but John reported that the gym is being constructed. Has it been decided where the basketball court is going? John has RAD coming in two take care of the two ballfields.

**Albion-** John Sharkey – No dog poop on the field but it is on the edges of the parking lot. Not sure where the new sign is going? There is a crater behind the right field fence. The double gates need adjusting and the bottom rails are laying on the ground. Scott said he has replacement pieces for the fence. The basketball court is holding up well. The infield baselines are wet. The backstop was replaced or repaired last year. There are no end caps on the pipes to stop the water from going in. The outfield grass needs thatching. There are four picnic tables there but there are usually more. There is a tree limb down in the back of left field foul pole. There is a piece of temporary fence laying down near the basketball court.

**Manville-** Frank Morin – More people are using the park. The back of the shed has graffiti. The cameras are in. The roof shingles are deteriorated and where there is a darker area, water is getting through. When was the last time we shingled the pavilion? We have lost a few picnic tables over the years and they haven't been replaced, and the one's there are in really bad shape. The benches and bleachers need paint. The signage is bad. The infield has never been this bad. Scott said this the main infield we are going to be working on.

**Fairlawn-** Andy Bruscini – Andy sent to John that there is trash on the back fence. Someone tried setting the boat on fire on the Smithfield Ave side. Scott stated that he thinks that is outside of the park but he will look into it and let the police know.

**Limerock-** Frank Kelly – More people have been at Lime Acres with the weather. Next month will be busy with softball and baseball. The park looks good and is in good shape. Scott stated that they took the dead trees down in the back of the fence.

**Quinville-** William Goho – People have been attending the park at the basketball court. As a reminder, the seesaw seat should be fixed before people use it. Everything is pretty good. The barrels were empty. The sand box is filled with debris and very little sand and not usable. He is pleased with the people attending.

### **Old Business:**

- A) **Elementary School Gyms:** We are gaining gym, but losing a lot of open space and any field space for recreation programs. John asked if in the comprehensive plan has this been taken into consideration? Scott said we can ask the planner Stephanie Davies. John asked why the Rec Director is not involved in the plan for the next ten years?
- B) **Middle School Field Project:** Scott asked Leslie, and the project was awarded to Turf Specialty. Do we have a timeline? Scott said this falls under the school, but he believes it was planned for next fall.
- C) **Pickle Ball Courts in Fairlawn:** We have finally received the design approval from DEM. It is in the newspaper and going out to bid. Bids are due back March 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business:**

- A) **Review of Park signs:** John asked what are the park signs going to be made of and what are the dimensions? Scott said he will get back to them tomorrow because he isn't sure.
- B) **Preparation for Spring Sports:** We have started working on some of the fields. John stated that some fields dry out faster than others, so we should maybe focus on the south end of the town and work north. Albion field doesn't get any sun and typically takes longer to dry out. Scott said the main focus right now is Manville and Lime Acres. Manville is in really rough shape.

No public comment.

Chris Cutler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and member Frank Kelly seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.