

TOWN OF LINCOLN
PARKS AND RECREATION MONTHLY MEETING

April 8, 2026

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

A motion was made by Chris Cutler and was seconded by member Frank Kelly to accept the minutes of the March 11th meeting. The minutes were accepted.

Director's Report: The main focus right now is field prep. We had a harsh winter and a ton of rain now. We are doing what we can. All of the batting cages are up, and they replaced the outer part of the cage at Albion. We hope the weather cooperates. We will be focusing on Fairlawn, Sam Moore, and Hien the next two weeks. Other maintenance at the parks included tackling the darkness behind Lonsdale and Manville. All benches were fixed and are being painted tomorrow. We are taking care of the brush behind concession stand in Manville. We need more barrels with the heavy trash activity. We replaced the wood fence pieces at Lonsdale. The AED's are all back up and Scott spoke to the rescue chief about putting one at Saylesville. The water is currently scheduled to be turned on April 14th, and Lonsdale Park was turned on today. The school and LYSA got porta johns. We are getting all of the bathrooms cleaned out and stocked up. We are also looking at all trails and playgrounds next. The fertilizing Little League helps out with every year. Lime Acres needs to get grass growing. The pickleball courts are now open and ready to use. We were awarded the Manville grant which includes a 25 % match from the town so we need FTM approval in May.

Many programs are currently running including Majhong, pound fitness, yoga, men's and woman's basketball, STEM, theatre, ultimate frisbee, flag football and much more. We now have more space and can expand programming.

Commissioner's Report:

Saylesville- Chris Cutler – The basketball court is used quite a bit. There is an issue with trash there so maybe we need extra barrels. A porta john is being used for softball. No graffiti. We need the sign installed. Scott met the company there today and it will be put on the left hand side leaving the parking lot. They flagged it and are putting it up. Arnold Park is getting a lot of use and the trash is picked up.

Lonsdale- Sean Gaughan – Looks good and clean. Batting cages are up. The weather will break this weekend. No leaves. Just need landscaping in the new area near the gym. Scott stated that the flagpole is on the radar with Leslie. John stated that

the coyotes are up at Hien and the landscaping bill was much less this year because of them.

Albion- John Sharkey – Looks good. There are tire marks from the pickleball courts to the batting cages and the ground is too soft. It will need to be filled and seeded. What are we supposed to do with the dogs on the field? Scott said try calling animal control first and then police if there is a real problem. It's where the kids play and there is a town ordinance. He always politely asks them to exit before he calls animal control. Not everyone picks up after their dog!

Manville- Frank Morin – The park looks good. There is graffiti behind the shed and the ceiling of the concession stand. The playground needs another layer of woodchips. The baseball field has never looked better. Scott said it will look even better once it's dragged tomorrow. The grass is so green. Scott mentioned that Colby Brown is doing his eagle scout project with dugouts in Manville. There are branches down everywhere and some litter probably from the wind. The benches need painting and are scheduled for tomorrow. There are some leaves inside and outside of the baseball field. Can we add more picnic tables? Scott will look into getting more because it is the most requested facility. The parking lot needs to be re-stripped. Can we add spots along the soccer side? Scott suggested that Frank maybe come sit down with himself and Leslie and discuss the parking.

Fairlawn- Andy Bruscini – The padding at the basketball hoop is down. There is a white bag of trash. The infield needs work. There are leaves along the fence. The parking lot on the Smithfield Ave side needs to be swept. The pickleball parking lot is full of trash and had two cars there. Scott will get a sign. Grass seed at the entrance to the pickleball court. Run a hose with a sprinkler. John saw dogs on the field.

Limerock- Frank Kelly – Lime Acres overall is in good shape. The infield on the front field is good, but not the outfield. Scott stated that there was an issue with first base and he met with the school department. The Middle School is playing at Chet which bumps other kids off of Chet. Having one 60 x 90 field in town is tough! Sean said Chet has lights so why can't one game be at 4 and another one right after? Scott said the grass is bad but what we had expected with the overuse. There is a pole down in the back batting cage. The net is worn out in the soccer net. Chris will go check tonight. Football needs to move the sled. They will be picking it up soon.

Quinville- William Goho – The nice weather has brought out some people. The barrels were emptied. The park looks good and was maintained well. The grassy area has dead spots and needs fertilization. A few maintenance items at the playground. It's a pleasure to see people coming out to the park. The guys will be coming out and checking the mulch too. There are two mounds of debris and gravel maybe from the plow in the grassy area.

Old Business:

A) Spring Sports Preparation:

B) Status of Manville Park Grant: We were awarded the grant with a 25 % Town match that has to be approved at the FTM meeting in May. Frank Kelly asked a question about the splashpad. Who will make sure the water is treated properly? Scott worked closely with Leslie Quish, Brian Thalman and the water department and they have someone with a background in that area. But definitely something to think about. John asked if all of the water is captured? Scott will get more information and details from Brian. John asked about a time-table. Scott says once the 25 % of \$500,000 match is approved at the FTM, we will go out to bid. We will also be including lighting in Manville as part of this grant. Lights will be put in each corner of the soccer field. Right now LYSA uses portable LED lights at night and this will allow them to spread out on the field better and utilize all areas of the field so there are less wear spots. Chris stated that if all of this is approved, we would sell the portable lights LYSA bought, and take the money and put it back into Manville for benches. Chris stated we had numerous instances where the light towers were used without permission. Chris stated that the temporary lighting wasn't meant to hold games there at night, but with the numbers growing, it will be better and not wear the field as much. Four lights are more than adequate. John stated to make sure it's adequate enough lighting before we purchase and set up so the kids can safely play soccer.

C) Opening of Fairlawn Pickleball Courts: There will be a small soft opening. The courts are open now, but he is sure the Administrator will do something for a ceremony.

New Business:

A) New Recreation Programs: We will be running a bunch of new programs. Lacrosse, field hockey, ultimate frisbee. You can pick up on ultimate frisbee quick. Scott is a big fan of any program that is pickup and getting kids/adults engaged and moving around, as opposed to set teams where people don't always show up.

B) New Playgrounds at Sayleville and Lonsdale Park: When will the construction begin? The construction should begin this summer. Scott hopes it will be done when school starts. Lonsdale playground will be where the little soccer field was. The Saylesville summer camp is moved to Fairlawn Park.

Public Comment: Dean Voyer got up to speak. He has been heavily involved in the pickleball courts in Smithfield Willow courts and other places. There are a number of things we need to be aware of and keep in mind with the new pickleball courts. The closeness of the courts with people bringing their own nets. When moving laterally left or right you will interfere with the other courts and games going on next to you without

any barriers in place. You will have to constantly be stopping play because of a ball on the court. A lot of possibility for injuries this way. The noise is also a concern with people living so close. John stated that with the 8 courts, we would have been better off doing 5. The fences are lower and we will loose a ton of balls down the back. The balls aren't cheap and it's a financial burden to the people playing. Dean just wants to express what he see's out there.

Scott stated that we are looking into ways to separate the courts and Lincoln has a huge pickleball following. This is a great opportunity for growing this sport and he totally understands the concerns. He will look at options to see how we can minimize concerns. Scott has been in contact with multiple groups and we know there is room for improvement. He will also talk with Engineering and Public Works on different options.

Dean asked why Lime Acres couldn't have been repurposed for pickleball courts where the tennis courts are? He has lived right there for 20 years and it's the perfect spot. There wouldn't have been a noise problem there either. Scott stated that people do use the tennis courts and the only other tennis courts are at the high school which can't be used during school hours. Sean asked if the Fairlawn courts are painted? We could just repaint with less courts. Dean said to look at the Willow courts in Smithfield. They are world class but have a problem with the noise ordinance. Scott stated that we will have to see how it goes.

David Hart spoke stating that for the soccer lighting at Manville, there is a foot canvas for it. There is a lot of resolutions at the financial town meeting scheduled for May 11th at 7 pm and we need voters there to get these things passed.

Chris Cutler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and member William Goho seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.