

**Town of Northborough
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
December 5, 2023**

In attendance:

Board Members: Gary Maggiolino (Chairman), Mark Awdycki, Paul Cacciatore.

Town Staff: Allie Lane (Recreation Director).

Minutes – Approval of meeting minutes from October 3 moved by Mark; Gary seconded.

6:10pm: Meeting called to order by Gary

6:11pm: Recreation Report

Allie: Started off stating that Recreation has had a very busy fall and winter so far. Usually this is the slower time of year for Recreation but she mentioned that there have been an addition of new programs and vendors that have kept the office busy. Currently, she is halfway completed with the Spring/Summer 2024 Brochure and should have that out to print this January.

6:22pm: New Business

Allie: Regarding the sandbox removal, Allie mentions that the Metrowest Oral Surgical Associates donated money towards the addition of a sandbox during the reconstruction of Assabet Park. Since then there have been multiple calls and complaints that sand is consistently being taken out of the sandbox and relocated to all different areas of the park. This has caused a good amount of sand to get all over the track area where children ride their scooters and bikes and is causing children to fall. There are numerous photos of the sand being strewn across the park and DPW is having to go out multiple times a week to clean. Moving forward, DPW and Recreation would like to remove the sandbox completely and relocate the plaque for Metrowest Oral Surgical Associates to under the Pavilion.

Gary: Asks how long the removal of the sandbox will take.

Allie: States that DPW can take it out within a day, however she is unsure if it will be done before or after winter, weather dependent.

Gary motions to remove the sandbox at Assabet Park, Paul seconded. All in favor.

Allie: As far as the Pickleball court update, Allie mentions that Scott Charpentier (DPW Director) has called the contractor for additional cracking in the surface of the Pickleball courts as well as broken fencing and gates. They are hoping to have repairs completed under the extended warranty of the courts. Also mentioned that she will be putting in an application to CPC to construct a sound barrier to cover 3 of the 4 sides of the pickleball courts as there have been complaints from neighbors regarding consistent noise. Currently looking to get \$50,000 for material and installation of a soundproof barrier.

Allie would like to acknowledge the 4 bench donations made this year from Loraine Leland, Alex Fleischman, Christine McDonald, and the Charitable Trust of Dorothy Tenney. There was a discussion of a price increase for future bench replacements since currently donations are only covering the cost of the bench itself and not the additional plaque that is ordered by Recreation.

Allie also gave an update from Scott C. that the Town Common irrigation has been completed and the trees have been lit. Mentioned all efforts were fully funded by ARPA.

Allie gave a brief overview of the 2023 Turkey Trot, mentioned that it is now Recreation's biggest fundraiser and that increasing the cost from \$30 a runner to \$35 resulted in an increase in profits despite receiving fewer donations from businesses this year. Mentioned that we had 95% of runners show up that day and that the entire event went very well with beautiful weather.

7:10 Old Business – None to report

7:11pm Mark motioned to adjourn the meeting, Paul seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Maegan Wackell
Recreation Assistant