

Killingworth Park & Recreation Commission Minutes Regular Meeting, January 10, 2022

In attendance: Jim Duffield (Chair), Jeremy Burr, Bill Burley, Donna Clark, Chris Smalley, Cheryl DeFilippo (Recording Secretary), and visitors: Caley Anderson, Laura Perley, Chris Maciejak. Cindy Pitts, Cooper Pitts

Absent: Glenn Johnson, Brian Blair

1. **Call to Order**: Jim Duffield called the meeting to order at 7:32pm
2. **Approval of Minutes**: A motion was made by Donna Clark to approve the December 13, 2021 Minutes. Bill Burley seconded the motion. No discussion followed and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Visitors**: Cooper Pitts (Eagle Scout) was accompanied by his mother, Cindy Pitts to discuss his upcoming Eagle Scout Project at KRP Auer. Cooper met before the Commission a couple of months ago and decided to take on securing benches for KRP Auer. He would like to see 8 benches at Auer: 1 at the top left field, 1 at the opposite top corner field, 2 at the soccer field, 2 at the football field, and 2 at playground. The benches would be 4' long, pre-made out of recycled plastic (frame made from steel). Cooper would assemble and secure them into the ground, preparing a cement slab. Cooper presented color options – he chose gray as most neutral. The cost for 8 benches is \$4,630.80. He is also thinking about putting plaques on each bench to honor a person or business (would help fund cost. The discussion continued around mowing near the benches, location of underground irrigation, whether to have benches with a common backside so allow seating on both sides. After the discussion, Cooper started to rethink the project, and may change his design to use benches without backs – could cut down price or add 1 or 2 more benches. Might make mowing a little easier as well.

Jim summarized that the benches are a good idea, the plaques would be approved, but the details need to be worked out. Cooper will discuss with his scout leader and report back to the Commission. The project would begin early summer. Cooper will begin fundraising for the project. He also asked if the Commission could contribute toward the cost. Jim offered some funding, but it depends on the number of benches, final materials, costs, etc.

Haddam-Killingworth Little League represented by Caley Anderson, Laura Perley, Chris Maciejak. These HKLL members wanted to begin a dialogue with various Parks and Recreation Commissions about the fields, manage procedures for securing fields for the little league players. The HKLL Board met, reviewed the fields in Killingworth, and prepared a spreadsheet of items to address.

HKLL will review their spreadsheet at their upcoming Board meeting and then send it to Jim for circulation to the Commission. Some of the fields have debris and hazards that need to be addressed (i.e., Rocco). Jim explained going forward the Commission will only approve improvements that are easily maintained to avoid past issues which caused current issues. A member of HKLL will attend the February KPR Commission meeting to review details and price quotes for the work they would like to see completed. Jim reminded HKLL to consult with Haddam Parks & Recreation Commission, and to secure volunteers from the HKLL Board and parents of those participating to assist with renovations.

Jim informed HKLL that it is quite possible one field may need to be shut down each fall to provide full maintenance to that field. The fields are overused, and it has become difficult to keep up with maintenance.

The discussion turned to the Breakers using the fields and trying to collaborate with them on maintenance – need both funding and resources.

Jim reminded HKLL that they have to complete applications for use of the fields and coordination is needed with the Breakers so there is comparable use. Caley mentioned she would bring up the issue about Breakers at the HKLL Board meeting, as most of the kids are from towns outside of Haddam or Killingworth.

4. **Communications, Bills, and Applications**

The following bills were received:

Eversource: \$62.57 (Dec) \$ Sheldon Park; \$47.59 (Dec) \$ KRP Auer

Pete Cumpstone Gate-keeping: (Dec) \$300 (31 days) KRP Auer, plus an additional \$15.16 to have keys made for the gate. Jim has 1 key, 1 is with the Town Hall, 1 with snowplow company, 1 with Town Foreman

Langer Landscapes: \$700 for fall clean up at Sheldon Park

Drainscapes \$800 to fix stone wall at KRP Auer

Drainscapes \$2,052.50 (Oct) and \$2,052.50 (Nov)

Anthony Carri Gate-keeping: (Nov) \$300 (30 days) (Dec) \$300 (31 days) Sheldon Park

A motion was made by Chris Smalley to approve payment of the bills. Donna seconded the motion. No discussion followed and the motion passed unanimously.

5. **Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer's report was presented by Donna who informed the Commission it has used 41% of budget or \$24,720 to date.

6. **Old Business**

Parks and Field Maintenance

Sheldon Park: Jim reported the benches and lights are slated for removal. The discussion turned to the issue of repairing and cleaning the tennis courts. Lichen is presenting a problem with eating away at the surface of the courts. After extensive discussion, the Commission agreed the work outlined in the original quote needs to be completed instead of trying to section out what needs to be done. The resurfacing of the courts will be addressed separately. Jim will add \$6,000 into this year's budget for the tennis court cleaning and repair.

Rocco Field: nothing new; other organizations that want to use the field should help with refreshing paint on concession stand, removing pipe debris. Commission will help with maintaining field

Bethke Field: nothing new

Eric W. Auer Killingworth Recreational Park (KRP): Discussion about the kiosk was tabled. Jim identified the guidance counselor at the High School in charge of volunteers. Would like to set aside 1 day in March, April, May and June for weeding flower beds, marking trails.

A date needs to be set to review the Pavilion plans. The review of grant proposal for hardball baseball field, dog park, pickle ball was tabled.

Ideas regarding capital improvements: Jim presented the following ideas for capital improvements:

2022-23 – Clean, refresh painted lines, and repair crack in tennis courts \$7,000

2022-23 – Pavilion at KRP Auer \$30,000

2022-23 – Baseball field (grant amount needs confirmation)

2022-23 – Dog Park \$7,500

2023-24 - Revitalize septic system and concession stand at KRP Auer \$50,000

2023-24 – New recreational facility \$10,000 (Jim to find out details)

2024-25 – Expand and refurbish Wolf Hollow Trail \$5,000

2025-26 – Resurface the tennis courts, approximately \$30,000

2025-26 – Volleyball or pickle ball court at KRP Auer

7. New Business: None

8. Adjournment: Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl DeFilippo, Recording Secretary