

May 22, 2023 Recreation meeting minutes.

Present for this meeting: Judy Brotman, Curtis Sheppard, Chris Pratt, Dina Cutting and Luke Prince (via Zoom).

At its meeting of May 22, 2023, the Recreation Commission discussed the ideas and additions put forth concerning the Recreation Facility. The following is the sense of this meeting:

- The Recreation Commission feels strongly that it is important to keep as much open space as possible.
- This area should keep its country charm.
- We are a small rural Recreation Facility and we need to update and take care of the facilities we already have.
- Keep this Recreation Facility as low maintenance as possible.

With those goals in mind and the strong sense that we should make sure that what we already have at this facility is in tip top shape, the Commission came up with 4 items that we feel are important to address at this time.

1. Tennis-pickleball/basketball courts. From 2010 to 2022 \$37,000 has been put into the courts to address the surface cracking and the shifting of dirt under the courts. We believe it would be beneficial and cost effective to have a structural review of these courts and the ground beneath and to have a professional opinion concerning the anticipated longevity of the current surface. It does not make sense to keep putting funds into these courts if it is time to rebuild the courts. This is a wonderful Town asset that is enjoyed by many residents.  
We are asking the Lyme Foundation to support the funding of a professional opinion and if necessary, consider replacing the Tennis-pickleball/basketball courts if necessary.
2. Fencing. In order to protect this recreation area, the fencing needs to be in good shape. The Commission would like to see the current fencing replaced - from the Route 10 side, along the courts, and along the berm (removal of the berm would be favorable). This fencing is important to maintaining a separation from the recreation areas and the vehicle traffic.
3. Boat racks. The Commission continues to support the idea of additional (up to 4 more) boat racks.
4. Leveling and bringing up the grade of the parking lot is a project the Town Highway department will be able to do. However, we would like to have the beach access pathway brought up to meet the parking lot (at its new height) and run to the beach area in a gradual, tapered manner. This will get rid of the "walking through the muck" problem.

The above items are what the Recreation Commission felt would be appropriate for the Lyme Foundation's assistance.

Recreation Commission also voted to address the following items over the next few years as funding allows.

- New swing set (in a different location)
- Purchase a new tether ball set up.
- Purchase a new volleyball set up.
- Remove the lifeguard stand
- Address the Mens softball shack. Make it smaller, add a ramp for the storage of the field tractor and equipment.
- 3 new drinking fountains (2 to replace the present old ones and 1 additional one over at the field dugout.
- A bike rack
- We plan to move the 2 grills and additional picnic tables to the swing set area as a family picnic area.

The Board reviewed Director, Steve Smalls report. (See attachment)

In the coming months the Commission will be reviewing the hours assigned to the Recreation Director. The demands of new sporting activities and the administrative work that goes along with them have increased this position. The budgeting for 2024 has not begun yet but this commission should be ready by September and October to present funding requests to the budget committee.

The new raft needs a ladder. Luke will investigate this and get one ordered for this year. Chris moved to have Luke order a new ladder for the dock. Seconded by Curtis. Voted unanimously.

Thursday June 15, 2023 will be the cleanup, put the docks in work day. Starting time is 5:30PM. A notice will be sent out in the coming weeks. It is the hope of the commission that many more people will come and help this year with the set up and clean up. It is tough to have only 4 people come to clean and set up.

The commission adjourned at 7:15PM

Respectfully Submitted, Dina