

**Preston Parks & Recreation Commission  
Special Meeting  
January 26, 2021  
Teleconference  
7:00 pm**

**Call to Order/Roll**

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**Members present:** Tom Turner,, Mikel Brockway, Kim Demara (arrived at 8:00 pm),Gary Deveau, Katie Iozzia, Patricia Jankowski, Paul LoPresti, Rachel Tucker,

**Members excused:**

**Members absent:** Dan Coley

**Alternates present:** Roberta Charpentier

**Also present:** Amy Brosnan, Director, Roberta Charpentier, recorder,

Roberta Charpentier (recorder) read: *Per Lamont's Executive Order 7b, Participants are reminded to state your name and title before speaking. Please help us make this conference call as useful as possible by keeping your phone on mute when not speaking. Also note that we will be recording this meeting to comply with open meeting requirements.*

Chairman Turner stated he would like to move Unfinished Business further down on the agenda. Chairman turner asked A. Brosnan to discuss Park Maintenance and Development

**Park Maintenance and Development:**

A. Brosnan stated that there are between 100 and 200 geese presently at the Park and she emailed members all the previously discussed ways to eliminate their presence.

P. Jankowski asked what was the best solution the Commission previously came up with.

A. Brosnan answered the coyote decoys were put out but they only work for a short time, the swan decoys did not work. The USDA program was not popular with residents.

P. Jankowski asked what do other towns do?

A. Brosnan answered that the problem is never brought up at regional meetings, but she can reach out to other towns.

P. LoPresti noted that the pond/water is causing the problem

A. Brosnan thought it was not 100% the pond because when there is no water in the summer and the geese are still there.

Chairman Turner asked if the Town received the STEAP Grant funds.

A. Brosnan answered no.

**Finance/Fundraising:**

• **Budget: 2021-2022**

Part time Staff FY 2020 \$14,132 reduced to FY21 \$13,582

Support Staff FY 2020 \$24,317 increased to FY2021 \$2,867

- A. Brosnan noted that it is a flat budget from last year.  
A. Brosnan noted that she submitted the Budget to the BoS on the 22<sup>nd</sup> .

### **Membership & Elections**

- Open alternate position

### **Community Events**

- **Tour of Lights**, Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>

Created a map for participants to follow and then vote on their favorite houses.

A socially distanced Santa handed out treat bags at the Senior Center.

The winners received a Preston restaurant gift card;

Reason for the Season: 5 Doolittle Road

Winter Wonderland: 14 Mains Way

Clark Griswold Award: 18 Middle Road

- **Upcoming Community Event Ideas**

No comments

### **Programming**

- **Programs & Activities Update**

Considering an outdoor Spring basketball season

Yoga/Chair Yoga on Line Classes

- **Preston Little League**

M. Brockway stated registration has opened

Will use the same COVID guidelines used in the Fall

Will Replace scoreboards \$4500 for each side

Softball scoreboard will be fixed

Seeking proposals from companies to pay for scoreboard in exchange for affixing their name/logo on it.

### **Unfinished Business**

- **Soccer field**

Chairman Turner talked with New England Rush who proposed;

practice and game time for 2 teams for end of February to the middle of July

4 hours of practice a week

10 games played on Preston's field and a few skill clinics

In exchange they will give Preston goals (used 1 Season), replace nets and paint lines on the field

Preston youth will get free admittance to clinics

Parks & Rec will maintain the grass with extra fertilizer. To start on on the soccer field and if it work out well then do the softball fields as well.

A. Brosnan thought Rush would be paying for the fertilizer and noted that P&R did not budget for it.

Chairman Turner did not think he ever indicated RUSH would pay for the fertilizer

Parks & Rec will reserve the right to shut the field down for maintenance.

Chairman Turner noted that this will leave the field open for middle school, Preston Parks & Rec soccer, an actual soccer field for Sky Hawks.

Chairman Turner suggested putting a sign in the parking lot indicating the fields and complex are managed by Parks & Recreation and showing the phone number for scheduling use.

Discussion:

R. Tucker stated that if we had to buy the goals they are \$6,000 each

To re-net a goal is \$500 and the paint is \$100 a can

K. Iozza stated that it is a great organization and having a soccer field will benefit the Town. The girls on the Rush team will help teach the younger kids how to play the game.

A. Brosnan asked if this is all in writing in a contract.

Chairman Turner answered he just has a proposal.

A. Brosnan stated if we are exchanging services we should have the Town look it over and see if we need a legal opinion.

P. Jankowski asked if there is a safety issue with people walking the track while the league is down there.

R. Tucker answered there is no real safety issue. Several surrounding towns have soccer fields and people will walk the track as a soccer game is going on and there's never been an issue.

K. Demara stated that it is not anymore of a risk than softball/baseball. It is common to have tracks around fields.

A. Brosnan asked what are you asking people to agree upon because we haven't seen anything in writing

Chairman Turner stated that I am asking them to agree to move forward with this suggestion to a contract.

**A motion was made by K. Iozzia and seconded by R. Tucker to push this forward for further discussion of the soccer field.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

### **New/Additional Business**

- **Pavilion & Field Use Fees**

A. Brosnan noted that the rates used for the past 2 years and asked if the Commission thought they should be raised.

Pavilion

Residents: ½ day \$75.00 Full day \$125.00 Security Deposit \$100

Non Residents ½ day \$125 Full day \$225 Security Deposit \$200

Field Use (Fields and Courts)

\$25 per hour \$150 per day

After discussion members decided to look at what other towns are charging before deciding on Preston's rates.

**Meeting Minutes**

- **November 24, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes**

**A motion was made by R. Tucker and seconded by P. LoPresti to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2020 as presented.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Treasurer's Report**

**A motion was made by P. LoPresti and seconded by M. Brockway to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Correspondence Received/Sent Out**

- a) email from Town Clerk requesting 2021 Meeting Calendar
- b) email from 1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman requesting budget request

**Public Comment**

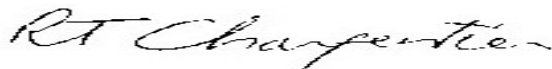
None

**Adjournment**

**A motion was made by G. Deveau and seconded by R. Tucker to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,



Roberta Charpentier  
Preston Recording Secretary