

Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on March 10, 2022

In attendance: Merrill McCluskey, Tom Desmond, Andrew Cromartie, Maureen Coleman, Janet Schulte, Mary Emery, Michael Cozort, Vince Murphy, Jack Gardner, Gene Bolinger, Brandon Kunkel, Charlie Polachi, John Comeau

Parks and Recreation Chair Tom Desmond called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

Michael Cozort motioned to accept the agenda; seconded by Andrew Cromartie. All in favor, so voted.

Andrew Cromartie motioned to accept minutes from November 4, 2021; seconded by Michael Cozort. All in favor, so voted.

Andrew Cromartie motioned to accept 2022 meeting schedule; seconded by Michael Cozort. All in favor, so voted.

Jante Schulte, Director of Culture and Tourism:

4th of July festivities:

- Designated, fenced area for water fight for Fire Department only; no public interaction
- Fireworks will take place on the 4th...despite cost of barge rental being 30% greater on that day
- Moved some activities from Main Street to Children's Beach from 10-11:30
- Children's Beach will host Matt Fee Tea Toss, photo booth, corn hole tournament, puppet show and bike parade. NISHA will promote their adoption program
- Main Street area will host food trucks on Federal Street; Farmers Market; Chamber hosting entrepreneur showcase at Atheneum; musical performances and reading of Declaration of Independence
- Janet answered questions from the Commissioners

Mary Emery, Nantucket Historical Association, Director of Education

- Presented plan to run a Wampanoag community celebration on August 10, 2022, 10am or 11am - 4pm
- Serves to educate and celebrate the Wampanoag people and elaborate on their story
- Darius Coombs, Director of Wampanoag and Eastern Woodlands Interpretation commissioned to make a dugout/ burned-out canoe...talk about the process in making the canoe and take people to paddle out around the shallow waters of the beach.
- Several tables set up on the lawn with crafts that kids and families can participate in...traditional crafts
- Artifacts table that Wampanoag leaders would bring, some artifacts could be handled, some could just be viewed
- Performers 4-5 people doing traditional dance with music
- Free, ongoing, drop in concept
- Dance would take place in the later part of the day; canoe and crafts all day
- Lots of NHA staff as well as the Wampanoags that are traveling over would supervise this event
- Trying to do more programming based around the natives to this region and paying respect to their culture

- Filled out a permit for the proposed date with Marina
- No food
- Commissioner Michael Cozort motioned to support this program under the Licensing guidelines and to be able to move forward; seconded by Andrew Cromartie. All in favor, so voted.

#### Charlie Polachi, Parks and Recreation Manager

- Issued rewritten bid for maintenance plan at all playing fields; 2 good bids that have been submitted, hoping to have someone to take over the maintenance of those fields to assist DPW work load
- Spoke with public school athletic director about hosting the field hockey program at Nobadeer or Delta in Fall 2022, but probably not going to happen because they're hitting pause on their Public School Master Planning

#### Gene Bolinger, Vice President of Weston & Sampson

- Wants to help develop solutions to adequate playing fields with hopes that some of the solutions are near term and some are longer term solutions
- Wants to get on agenda for April to go over more details for conversations over synthetic turf at Tom Nevers, Delta, and school fields
- 3 Town Beaches Concessions Study: under contract, have a purchase order, plan to look at the three facilities and develop a plan improving them over time, the building itself and the outside facilities (ie handicap ramps, parking etc.)
  - In holding pattern, waiting for DPW
- Multiuse trail at Tom Nevers
  - Developing proposal for next phase of work
  - Completed public outreach but would like to go further
  - Go from schematic design to really completed design

#### DPW feasibility study:

- Brandon Kunkel, Weston & Sampson Landscape Architecture: revisit the study to refine based on updates brought up by DPW Director Stephen Arceneaux, in process and collaborating with DPW to come up with updates at Delta

#### Tom Nevers Bank Stabilization and Solid Waste Removal:

Met with coastal zone management and Army Corps discussed remediate some solid waste, what can we do once we take out the waste and stabilize the embankment from erosion

- Not looking to make this too permanent because once you do one area it affects all surrounding areas
- Recommended putting in temp berms to help mitigate impact from wave action (but not a long term solution)

#### Open Space and Recreation Plan:

- The plan has been out of date for a while and working on getting a new draft submitted with the state
- This document being submitted and accepted to the state puts Nantucket in a good position for funding to develop initiatives for open space for recreation

Nobadeer Fieldhouse:

- Under construction: work continuing
- Brandon Kunkel: Architect John Como is the project manager for the field house and indicated that things are going well from construction perspective, biggest issue has been supply chain issues, referencing door delays (40 week lead time); they are about 50% complete with construction.
- Charlie: foundation is laid, structure should be going up this week and next

Gene Bolinger discussing:

Town wide Park and Recreation Master Plan Updates:

- Establishing modified field improvement approaches at Nobadeer, Delta, Tom Nevers
- Confirm strategy to advance low risk work, achieve short term gains
- Establish new cost estimates, plan diagrams to position for implementation
- Update/amend Master plan report in accordance with aforementioned
- Looking at developing updated schematic plans for the 3 fields, focus mainly on Nobadeer and Delta Fields
  - Bringing forward updated cost estimates
  - Identify a timeline for accomplishing the improvements
  - Incorporate existing footprints to improve campuses but realizing there is scheduled programming that they need to juggle
  - Nobadeer- if it isn't synthetic turf, maybe new natural turf field, but also maybe there are other updates and improvements...ex assessing irrigation, drainage, grading etc
  - Delta- what can we do in the short term, maybe on the Milestone Road side of the property, extending more fields without impact to surrounding areas
  - Tom Nevers- worried about cliff erosion, but maybe the inner part of the facilities can be improved and short-term adjustments can be put in motion

Tom Desmond:

- Recognizes the sincere and important concern about the fields
- Town paid Weston & Sampson \$120k for a new plan that was carefully vetted
- What happens to the synthetic field at Tom Nevers when it's lifespan is up?
- Thinks we can't, in good conscience, move forward with the synthetic turf field plans due to the environmental impact
- Gene Bolinger thinks there is not a good environmental solution to a synthetic turf field
- Tom thinks we need to go back to square one
  - Wants game fields for football, soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey; no practice on those fields
  - Wants new practice fields

Michael Cozort: wondering if when Tom says a game field does he mean for each sport?

Tom Desmond: yes a new field for each sport

Michael Cozort: most coaches want to play on the field that they are practicing on (based on his knowledge and experience as an athlete and coach himself). You have to think about the practicality of transporting young kids vs older kids. Not practical to transport the middle school kids back and forth but MAYBE okay for high school aged athletes

Tom Desmond: his point is that the transporting of the athletes is not practical. Not having the artificial turf field option available to us is a huge change in everything

Michael Cozort: Thinks we need the perspective of coaches. Not easy to have a 'czar of sports' because then it somehow gets political

Tom Desmond: thinks we need to get rid of the current synthetic field at Nobadeer

Vince Murphy, Nantucket Coastal Resilience Coordinator

- Tom Nevers area, the coastal resilience plan was finished in November and was approved by Select Board on Jan 12, 2022
- Estimated Capital costs of \$13M, capital costs with contingencies \$16M-18M, annual operations and maintenance \$200K
- Long-term adaptation pathway (2035-2100)
  - Lays out a plan to develop some resilience as we head towards the end of the century
- The geo tubes at the base of Sconset Bluff fit between 'edging and sill' on the graph
- You can still take action to increase longevity, not centuries but decades
  - Doing work on the face of the bluff requires approval Conservation Commission, run the risks of turning down proposal, not without risk, but you could gain time
- Just wants to slow down the ocean, doesn't think he can stop the ocean, but there are also fringe positives to increase longevity on the site because if laws change in the future, you can gain more time to do harder/concrete solutions

Tom Desmond:

- We have to figure out a solution to the problem and doesn't think that a meeting once a month is enough
- We need to figure out a short-term solution because even if synthetic turf fields get built it's not going to be for at least another 5 years
- Look at conservation land surrounding Delta fields, maybe knock down some trees to make more playing fields

Charlie:

- Hoping to come up with a whole new plan and present the beginning stages of it by the next meeting in April

Vince:

- There is a rare moth that lives in the trees next to the fields, so we can't bulldoze down those trees

Gene:

- Maybe we hold a special workshop just to discuss this matter of ideas

Tom:

- We have to go with just natural grass fields and were going to lose the synthetic field that we have
- Asks if anyone has any other comments? Michael Cozort makes a motion to adjourn meeting, Andrew Cromartie seconds motion. All in favor, so voted.