

## LAKEVILLE PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

POLICE STATION, 323 PRECINCT ST, LAKEVILLE, MA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024 @ 9:00AM

Members present: Scott Holmes, Michael Smith, Paula Houle, and Brynna Donahue.

Members not present: Melisa Turcotte.

Other attendees: Peter Murdy (Clerk), Kerry Bogdan (Freelake Softball), David Slutz (Men's Softball), Dale Simmons (Men's Softball), John Ricciardi (FLSC), Andrew Rodriguez (FLSC), and Jordan Latham (Freetown Lakeville Women's Soccer).

Scott Holmes called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

The individuals present all introduced themselves.

Kerry Bogdan reported that Freelake Youth Softball registration will be closing March 8, and they are projecting 140-150 players. They are moving forward with work on the dugout, and they are getting a quote for landscaping to dress up the fields. She asked about porta potties. Scott Holmes said our plan is to have two porta potties (one of them handicapped accessible) and a hand washing station. Michael Smith said we will also be installing a security camera faced toward the snack bar/porta potties. Paula Houle asked if there would be coaches familiar with AED and CPR. Kerry said "A couple of us are." Scott Holmes said the commission plans to ask the Fire Department to put on a class for AED and CPR which will be available to all leagues.

Dave Slutz and Dale Simmons reported that Men's Softball will have eight teams playing on Sundays from 8:00am to 1:00 pm on field #1. They said the field itself is dangerous with drop-offs on the sides of the running paths and asked if this can be worked on. Scott Holmes said we will ask Ryan to put this in the queue, but we will also need help from Men's Softball to do the work. The last time any work was done on the field was years ago. Dave said the work will require some heavy equipment and every year it gets worse. Scott said they were not in good condition when the town took them over. The possibility of using one of the LUAA fields was discussed. Dale said he will talk with Ryan about working on the field. Scott said that if they bring any heavy equipment in they need to let the Park Commission know.

Scott asked if they knew whose porta potty was behind the concession stand, and no one was certain.

Paula Houle said that there has been a problem with dogs on the playing fields and asked for help enforcing the rules. Jordan Latham said this was a problem with Women's Soccer as well.

Andrew Rodriguez reported that Freetown Lakeville Soccer Club has registered 258 players. Eighteen teams will begin play in April. They will hold a field day to prepare the fields and asked to be informed when the water is turned on again. Michael Smith gave an update on the availability of the North Fields: the parking lot is mostly graded now; drainage cannot be put in until after a turtle sweep has been conducted which will take place hopefully in the next month; but even without the drainage the parking lot is mostly useable; a fence will be put up and an area for picnic tables, porta potties and wash stands set up. Scott Holmes said that water and electricity need to be run from the other side of the fields before the executive porta potty can be moved there. Michael Smith said signage still needs to be added, bleachers will be located behind the fence near handicapped parking, and only players and coaches will be allowed on the fields. The goal is to have the North Fields open as soon as possible and rest and repair the old fields. There was some discussion about lining the fields, and John Ricciardi said that FLSC and Women's Soccer would be working out how they would be divided. Andrew asked about using the old fields for practice and the new fields for games. Scott said that they would like to give the old fields a break as much as possible. John said that the spring program is not as big as the fall, so resting in the spring is a good time for them. He asked if we have money to slice seed the old fields. Scott said that the commission has half ownership of a slice seeder with the school system, and

it's a matter of money and personnel to do this. Michael Smith said we should set a rotation for resting the fields.

Paula Houle mentioned Lakeville Day coming up on May 5 and encourage the leagues to get involved and let people know what's going on in the parks.

Scott Holmes emphasized for the leagues to let the Park Commission know if they want to do any maintenance in order to be approved beforehand.

Jordan Latham asked about private teams wanting to use the fields at JPP for practice. Scott Holmes said he was not aware of any and that that in any case the current leagues has precedence.

Brynna Donahue encourage the representatives to attend the open hearing with the Community Preservation Committee on February 29. She said it was important that the CPC hear from others about the need for improvements at John Paun Park.

Jordan Latham reported that Kira Watkins had submitted the application for Women's Soccer. Registration starts in two weeks and play begins in April. Last year the numbers increased and she expects another increase this year, especially in the 30+ league. She said she would like to know where they will be playing. Michael Smith said that the commission was going to the North Fields after the meeting and she and the FLSC reps were welcome to come.

Scott Holmes reminded the leagues that there will be new Park liaison assignments this year.

Kerry Bogdan asked if it would be a conflict of interest for a league member to also be on the Park Commission. Scott Holmes said there was not.

Freetown Lakeville Soccer Club submitted an Application for Field/Court Time. Lakeville Men's Softball submitted a hard copy of an application it had previously submitted by email.

At 9:40 am, Kerry Bogdan, David Slutz, Dale Simmons, left the meeting and everyone else proceeded to the North Fields.

At the North Fields, the commission and soccer reps reviewed and discussed the planned layout.

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 am.