

Bennington Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, May 3, 2022 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: James Cleary, David Foster, Thomas James

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:03 pm

Appointments:

6:00 pm – Dennis McClure and Tyler McClure – Sawyer Field discussion continued. Chairman Cleary discussed as a result of Dennis McClure contacting Primex Insurance, there was a representative that came on Monday at 9:00 am, he has written recommendations for Sawyer Field after conducting his inspection for the potential risks associated with the location of the bandstand at the field. Though any structure could be a possible risk hazard, it should be noted while these are grown men who are utilizing the field and it would be in their interest to avoid any collision to avoid any injury. There are other risks than the band stand that were noted. A few items the adjuster did identify are below:

- Foul Poles need padding
- Play lines need to be identified
- Band Stand is 290 feet from home plate
- Fencing near the bandstand could be installed limiting any risk or mark the field with in-play and out of play markings
- Other structures on the property could also be hazards
- Playground to be inspected shortly

Tyler McClure discussed he and his teams are happy to help raise funds for the playground, and for the padding on the foul poles. They will place markings for out of play lines. They would like to spread loam in the field. Tyler commented that JCL has offered to move the stage for FREE, a reel of wire is \$360.00, Jim Craig has said he would wire the bandstand free of charge. Tyler asked that Selectmen reconsider the location of the stage.

Tyler asked that this Men Softball program be supported by the Board, he does not want it to be confrontational. He wants the town to work together with the Ball team. He is trying to work out the parking with Bethany Craig to allow both events on Tuesdays. Tuesday – Thursday works best for the ball players. Tyler indicated that 50% are Bennington residents. He is looking into Antrim and Hillsborough as alternative locations, but would ultimately like the program to work in Bennington.

Trash was discussed – they have not created any trash as of this year and it should be noted, the trash receptacle are ½ full with beer cans. MDS has offered to provide a dumpster at no cost. Discussion followed, no decision was made at this time.

Again, Tyler expressed he needs to have the support of the Board, if he does not have their support, they will get through this year and then move on in 2023. Tyler reported there have been zero incidents in three years. Tyler did ask why is there always a police officer sits at the field during every game. Selectmen didn't know of this, Tyler could ask the Chief why there is always an officer sitting there.

Chairman Cleary told Tyler he does have the support of the Selectmen, everyone wants them to play ball. The Board doesn't want problems, they want it to work for everyone.

Tyler asked a few questions, will a deposit be required? What if the Farmer's Market is not successful, would the Selectmen ask if the market could relocate to the playground area? Regarding a fence, if they could have it, they can have it up by Monday? All Tuesday games will be cancelled unless he hears otherwise. The struggle with parking is understood.

Selectmen understood the questions and will discuss it amongst themselves and get back to Tyler.

Selectman Foster commented on the Fire and Rescue side, they want it to be safe for everyone.

Dennis McClure commented that they marked out where the fence would be, it is marked with blue tape. Dennis also discussed wanting to install a couple plaques one for Bob Knight Jr., a Vietnam loss, #22 to represent the number of soldiers who commit suicide every day.

Dennis presented minutes from 2017, indicating that Tom James, now a Selectman, was instrumental in the original location of the stage. Dennis further asked if James could or should recuse himself from any decisions regarding the stage and the location.

With regards for the deed referencing "public playground", Dennis read the definitions of playground and fairground.

Dennis reiterated his requests are to install memorial plaques on the fence, definition of the field and conflict of interest.

Chairman Cleary stated they will let Tyler know what Primex says about the padding, and the other insurance questions.

6:45 Emanuelson's – Garage – Selectmen reviewed the permit and signed it. Dave Desaulniers is scheduled to start next week, they can move forward with the permit as is.

6:55 – Bethany Craig – Discussed the Playground and what was discussed with Primex. Looking into various options for grants (Disney, Walmart etc.) for playground equipment. Buoys will be installed at the beach on Saturday. May have the beach rototilled, need to get the rototiller moved to the beach, Chairman Cleary said he may be able to help with moving the equipment to the beach and home.

2042 Bicentennial – Though it seems a long way away, Bethany was asking if the Board would consider a CRF to be established in 2023 to allow for some seed money when the 200th Celebration is here in 20 years. Selectmen will keep this in mind for the 2023 warrant.

Grants – Hillsborough County website offers funds that are available through ARPA for infrastructure improvements.

Selectman Foster asked about first aid packs and if Bethany needs to restock any items. Bethany will look at what is there and get in touch with Foster.

There will likely be two attendants back this year, not probable there will be any lifeguards.

With nothing further Selectmen thanked Bethany for her updates.

Minutes: Chairman Cleary motioned to accept the minutes of 04/19/2022 as written. Seconded by Selectman James. Minutes were accepted.

Financial: Payroll Register
A/P Register

Old Business:

- Update Selectmen on Desaulniers offer – the property will be put out to bid
- VFW – Shrubbery – email regarding the rock – House by the side of the road has the plant needed. 1’5” bush is \$40.00, Selectmen approved this purchase. Deb will let Matt and DJ know to move forward. Deb discussed an e-mail she received from the Conservation Commission Chair expressing the dissatisfaction of the location of the Bruce Edes Memorial Rock in location to the handicapped ramp. Discussion followed. Selectmen believe to relocate the rock is not cost effective. Tom James will report this to the Conservation Commission.

New Business:

- Map 22 Lot 11D - invitation to bid was reviewed and approved – bids will be requested, opening of the bids will be March 17, 2022 at 6:00 pm.
- Tri-Town - Quote from Second Wind – Selectmen approved the quote and instructed Deb to move forward.
- Domestic Partners – Discussion of adding an option for domestic partners to the insurance followed. Selectmen did not approve this option at this time.

Items for signature:

- Bank documents
- Building permit Map 21 Lot 8A (garage)
- Intent to cut - Map 5 lot 3, Map 8 Lot 7, Map 3 lot 26; M19-21A1, 19-21A, 19-21B, 19-21C
- Sawyer Field Facility Contracts – Rhubarb Festival, Farmers Market, Celebration of Life
- Certificate for Boston Post Cane

Selectmen discussed the Men’s Softball and all agree they would like to see the field utilized as much as possible. They would like to have Primex recommend the material for the foul posts. There will not be fences installed around the stage at this time. Town Administrator, Deb Davidson was instructed to contact Town Counsel about the deed for Sawyer Field.

With nothing further the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, May 17, 2022