



TOWN OF GRAFTON

GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD
GRAFTON, MA 01519
www.grafton-ma.gov

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GRAFTON RECREATION COMMISSION

Kristen Belanger, Chair
Michael Bruny
Stephen Crowley
Kayla Cushman

Jenny Andersen, CPRP, CPSI
Recreation Director

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GRAFTON RECREATION COMMISSION

January 9, 2023

Recreation Office at Grafton Memorial Municipal Center

A Recreation Commission meeting was held on **January 9, 2023**, in the offices of the Department of Recreation. Commissioners in attendance were Michael Bruny, Stephen Crowley, and Kristen Belanger. Jen Andersen and Mary Sevon were also in attendance. Kayla Cushman arrived late to the meeting at 7:23 pm. Anne Marie Foley attended in person. Dan Fitzgerald, a resident at 11 Patricia Drive, and Adriene Mampe, a soon-to-be addition to the Commission also attended via Zoom.

1. **Call to Order:** Ms. Belanger called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Crowley motioned to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2022 meeting. Mr. Bruny seconded. All approved. Motion passed 3-0.
3. **Review of Bills:** Bills from December were reviewed.
4. **Correspondence:** There was no correspondence.
5. **Anne Marie Foley – Skatepark:** Ms. Foley has been responsible for a grass roots effort to rebuild a skatepark for the youth of Grafton. When the town built the new school, the town had promised to rebuild the skatepark and Superpark for our young adults. She had advocated for ARPA funds and received \$50,000 seed money to fund the project. Her intent was to find advocates in town to support her efforts. The 11-17 year olds are missing out. Options for locations include the Perry Hill area (where there is an old basketball court) and next to GCTV. The members of the Recreation Commission agreed to support the project and Ms. Andersen will look into a Facebook posting for identifying youth who are willing to assist Ms. Foley.
6. **Introduction of Future New Commissioner:** Ms. Mampe was introduced via Zoom to the group. She has not completed the appointment process yet. Ms. Belanger gave her a brief overview of the duties of a Commissioner. Ms. Mampe gave a brief description of her previous Recreation Department experiences growing up and her passion for volunteering for town activities that are a good fit. We look forward to her joining the group!

7. **Review of the Town Report:** Ms. Andersen shared a two-page summary of the Grafton Recreation Commission activities for the year 2022. It included expenses in excess of \$1,000 during FY22. The group reviewed the document and agreed that it was a good representation of their activities. The report will be submitted to the Town Administrator's office.
8. **Liquor at Events Discussion:** Rushford and Sons (RAS) had approached Ms. Andersen to sell beer at summer concerts. As the company is not licensed correctly, they would not be eligible for liquor sales at our events. Ms. Andersen reached out to other Rec Departments in the state to gather research on any issues with alcohol sales and came up with mixed reviews. Ms. Foley indicated that the Grafton Inn gets a special one-day license for their annual cornhole tournament. Ms. Belanger indicated that the Common is not a large enough area to be able to corral off an area for alcohol sales. Our spaces are not conducive to having alcohol. Mr. Crowley was opposed to selling alcohol at the event as they are posted as family friendly. Ms. Cushman is not strongly opposed to alcohol sales under the right conditions. It was recommended that Ms. Andersen contact the Police to determine their opinion of the possibility. However, at this point, as there is no real demand, the topic will be placed on hold.
9. **ARPA Funding Update:** We now have access to the funds. Are in the process of moving forward. The money will be used for the Pickleball court redo/repair and the Master Plan. There are also additional things to do. For the Pickleball, we are looking at the warranted crack repair and possibly a SportCourt material that will go over the asphalt. We are waiting to hear about the local places that are using the material so we can have Pickleballers check them out first.
10. **Commissioner Reports – CPC, OSRP, Programming/Events:**
CPC: None
OSRP: None

Events: Upcoming events in the works include Someone Special Dance on April 14, the Community Yard Sale on May 6th and the road Race on May 13th.
11. **Old Business/New Business:** None at this time.
12. **Director Report:**
Pickleball: We are implementing a wristband for registered Pickleball members. Also Ms. Andersen will be looking into a private account on PlayTime Scheduler with registered Pickleball members as members of a private group. Mr. Bruny shared how the screen looks and the differences between public and private accounts.
Dog Rules: Mr. Bruny experienced the challenges of unleashed dogs in parks. Ms. Andersen is working on new signs that will be posted at all gates and by the Pickleball courts. She will also work with Parks to remove the inaccurate ones. The group reinforced the need to communicate the new requests regarding dogs on fields as discussed at the December 5th meeting.
Ski Club: Ski Ward is no longer offering the free ski option so Grafton will not be able to offer a Ski Club.

New Program: Gnome on the Roam was successful in getting folks active on social media. He was hidden in Hassanamesit Woods and at Nelson Park's Disc course. Finders received gift cards. He'll be back roaming in the Spring.

Ice Rink: When Parks took the rink liner out of storage, they realized that the liner was sliced up more than anticipated. When looking into replacement, the time for delivery is long and it would be delivered too late in the season and the weather is not expected to cooperate for freezing solid so at this point, there will not be an ice rink this year.

Silver Lake: No Beach Director has been hired at this time.

95 North: We are in the process of finalizing the new contract. Surveying is expected to be done in January if the weather cooperates. The parking lot should be done in the spring with the park done by Fall 2023.

Norcross Park: The playground footprint will remain the same however we plan on replacing the aging structure rather than just fixing the destroyed equipment. There is \$60,000 from insurance and \$100,000 from the Capital budget that can be used. The new plans also incorporate a shade structure with tables to replace the large trees. An ADA surface will be poured. The total budget is between \$350,000-\$390,000 depending on what components are added to the plan.

13. At 9:10 pm Mr. Crowley made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Cushman seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously. The next meeting will be fully remote on February 6th, 2023.