

Madison Beach and Recreation Commission
Monthly Meeting
May 7, 2019

In attendance: Mary Pat Nardino, Pam Greene, Vince Dussich, Scot Erskine (Director), Linda LaSance (Assistant Director), Carrie Gazda (Recreation Supervisor), Bill Piggott (Salt Meadow Park), Tom Banisch (First Selectman)

Guests/members of the public in attendance: David Labanara (Madison resident)

Absent: Rob Card, Shane Kokoruda, Bruce Wilson, Joe Oslander, Ted Rahmann, Virginia Raff

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Mary Pat Nardino (in the absence of Chairman Rob Card) at 7:00 p.m.

I. Approval of the Minutes dated April 2, 2019

Motion to approve the minutes by Dussich, second by Greene; the minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

II. Public Comments: Madison resident Dave Labanara had concerns and questions regarding the new parking pass system being implemented at the Surf Club and agreed to wait until the Commission discussed the agenda item under "Old Business."

III. Chairman's Report/Correspondence: Scot Erskine gave an update in the Chairman's absence. Main items to be covered during the discussion of the Parking Management Plan Update under "Old Business."

IV. Section Reports:

A. Greenway Trail: No report

B. Salt Meadow Park Report: Bill Piggott reporting

- i. Publicity efforts continue for the 2019 Summer Music Festival that is being planned for Sunday, June 9 from 1:00-7:30 pm. The festival will feature 7 bands with a mix of rock and folk music. Negotiations regarding food trucks are still underway.

C. Bauer Park Report: Scot Erskine reporting for Ted Rahmann

- i. Gardens are open and available to new renters.
- ii. The Department has recently replaced 90 rails and posts that had rotted.
- iii. Eagle Scout Projects are underway to make improvements to the firepit area and the outdoor classroom. Another Eagle Scout project will work on cataloguing and labeling items in the farm house to set up a future museum display there with larger items being displayed in the barn.
- iv. Vince Dussich confirmed that the Madison Exchange Club would be handling the food service at the Harvest Festival this year.

- D. Rockland Preserve: Scot Erskine reporting for Joe Oslander
 - i. A dog walk is being organized by Grace Zhou along the service road and nature trails at Rockland Preserve on June 15th (now moved to June 22nd) to raise money for Human Trafficking Survivors.
 - ii. Single bike tracks have been opened up and fenced in to be insurance compliant.
- E. Facilities and Grounds: Scot Erskine reporting
 - i. All fields are open.
 - ii. Recent storms have brought sand back to the Surf Club. The stairways and ramp still need to be extended so that people can get to the beach properly.
 - iii. Acknowledgement that the Surf Club needs to be part of a Coastal Resiliency Plan as it is developed by the Town.
- F. Programs: Carrie Gazda reporting
 - i. Summer programs and camps are filling up.
- G. Personnel: Scot Erskine reporting
 - i. Interviews for summer staff have been completed.
 - ii. There were not enough qualified applicants to fill positions for life guards this year (needed a minimum of 7 to cover all shifts). The Town will be posting signs at the beaches as necessary to inform the public and meet legal obligations. Pam Greene suggested that the Beach & Rec Commission put out a communication on this issue after communications have been completed on the new parking pass system.
- V. Old Business
 - A. Citizen Survey Update: Vince Dussich reporting
 - i. Vince Dussich and Shane Kokoruda will have a report for the June meeting.
 - B. Parking Management Plan Update: Scot Erskine reporting
 - i. Implementation of the new parking system is running behind schedule.
 - ii. Complus has accepted Town changes to the terms of the contract. Implementation will begin and passes will be available online as soon as the contract has been signed and fully executed. Tom Banisch estimated that the contract would be in place within a week.
 - iii. Backup Plan if the system is not in place before the Memorial Day holiday: The Surf Club will be open and there will be free parking for anyone who comes.
 - iv. Discussions are ongoing with the sports community on parking accommodations for sporting events. The grass parking area and Exchange lot will be the designated parking lots for the sports community.
 - v. Dave Labanara expressed concerns about rules enforcement and onsite supervision at the beaches, spoke in favor of extended hours to enforce parking, and asked about registering new license plates.

- vi. Scot Erskine explained the current plans for staffing and supervising the beach areas, the current thinking behind policies regarding hours of enforcement, how the credit card address/zip code used when paying for parking passes will confirm Madison residency, and the conditions under which license plates will need to be registered on a new car.
- vii. Tom Banisch said that we will implement the plan and monitor it to see how it goes. When problems occur, they will be addressed as they come up.

VI. New Business:

A. Pickleball and “Open Gym”

- i. Vince Dussich asked about inside use of the Town gym for pickleball during Open Gym hours when weather does not permit play outdoors.
- ii. Issue: Pickleball takes up half the gym area so cannot be easily accommodated during Open Gym time, especially during weather conditions that send other sports groups or camp programs inside as well.
- iii. Tom Banisch suggested that pickleball players be allowed to set up a court and play if no one else is using the gym with the understanding that they will have to stop if others come to use the gym. Also, it would only be open to Madison residents who own a gym pass; guests would not be able to play inside the gym.

VII. Adjournment: Dussich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Greene. The meeting ended at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Greene, Secretary