

## **July 24, 2023, Parks Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chair Lima, Commissioner Billings, Commissioner Combra and Executive Administrator Nicole Morey

**Others Present:** Parks Director Chris Joyce, Lynn Bolles, Steve Auerbach and Peter Meleney

**Via Zoom:** Kevin Warner and African American Cultural Festival representative Joanne Edey-Rhodes.

**Meeting recorded by Nicole Morey and later transcribed by Patty Culkins**

3:00 PM Open meeting

3:05 PM

### **New Business**

#### **East Chop Lighthouse**

Parks Director Chris Joyce reported that he met with Kevin Warner to discuss the fence surrounding the East Chop Lighthouse and Park. They discussed a plan to build a new fence that would be like the current one. Pressure treated posts would be installed with Azek slats. An alternative plan is to build a new fence inside of (18-20 inches) the existing fence that would create more parking space and room for a bike rack. Mr. Joyce said he would like to post signs that would list hours of park, no bikes allowed within fence and no drones allowed. A gate will be added (less than the current 14 feet) for mowing access. He asked Commissioner Combra for permission to have lumber for the project delivered and stored at the Highway Barn.

#### **2024 Holiday lighting**

The Commissioners discussed the budget, installations, and RFP for holiday lighting for the upcoming season. They do not expect increasing holiday lighting in Ocean Park. They discussed the Highway Department helping with some of the installation with whatever company secures the contract and that could be included in the RFP. Commissioner Combra will meet with Assistant Town Administrator Wendy Brough to put the RFP together. Chair Lima suggested putting a list together of the holiday lighting that the town owns and is being stored at the Highway Barn.

#### **Water District water use discussion**

Chair Lima discussed the water use reporting from the Water District concerning the irrigation at Ocean Park. The Water District sent the Chair an email that said it cannot match the demand of the town's water needs between 3:00 am and 7:00 am. At that time all four pumps were running, and it could pose a threat if there was a local fire. Chair Lima forwarded the email to Mark Crossland of Crossland Landscaping, who responded that he would abide by the water ban restrictions on the other parks but would not do it at Ocean Park. Wednesday, Saturday, and Sundays are the days that Ocean Park is not watered. The Commissioners agreed that the timing of irrigating should be changed, and a non-watering day should be added. Chair Lima suggested installing signs to explain the Parks effort to abide by the watering ban and hoped that they could lead by example by adhering to the restrictions. Commissioner Combra said that he would speak to Mr. Crossland about cutting back and/or adjusting the watering schedule and will also speak to the Water District. Executive Administrator Nicole Morey said that the Crossland Landscaping invoices do not specify locations of fixes or maintenance of sprinkler heads and according to the irrigation

contract, Crossland Landscape should be getting preapproval before making any repairs or replacement of equipment.

### **Penn Field Drop-In Clinic**

Chair Lima reported that Ernie Shaw of Penn Field Drop-In Clinic has completed all required forms and has insurance to run the baseball clinic. Commissioner Billings asked that Mr. Shaw keep in touch with the Parks Department while the clinic is running.

### **Tree donation account**

#### **Discussion & possible vote on donor restricted account**

Chair Lima reported he reached out to Town administrator Deborah Potter about setting up a Tree Donation Account. She agreed to set up an account if it is used.

Commissioner Billings made a motion to set up a Tree Donation Account in the name of: Oak Bluffs Tree Stewards. Commissioner Combra seconded the motion. (3 ayes)

### **Special Use Permit Applications**

#### **African American Cultural Festival; Hartford Park, Friday, July 28 to Saturday, July 29, 2023 (rain date August 5) FINAL APPROVAL**

Lynn Bolles was present for final approval for the African American Cultural Festival; Hartford Park, Friday, July 28 to Saturday, July 29, 2023 (rain date August 5) They received approval from Board of Health for a food permit. Commissioner Billings asked that red cones be put out to prevent parking on the park grass and recommended only using pop up tents without stakes. Parks Director Chris Joyce will make an onsite visit on the day of the event.

Commissioner Billings made a motion for final approval for African American Cultural Festival; Hartford Park, Friday, July 28 to Saturday, July 29, 2023 (rain date August 5). Commissioner Combra seconded the motion. (3 ayes).

### **Old Business**

**Lifeguard policies – not discussed.**

**MV Skate Park – not discussed.**

**Pickleball – not discussed.**

### **Parks Manager update**

Parks Director Chris Joyce received an invoice from Town IT Sherwood Ives for installation of four cameras at Niantic Park. Chair Lima said he will send it to Town Administrator Deborah Potter. Mr. Joyce reported that he met with Cole Powers (Powers Electric) at Ocean Park Gazebo about lights that are not working and discussed that a water leak may be the cause. He has been watching the use of the beaches by Yoga groups, some of whom are abiding by the rules and some who are not.

### **Comments**

Commissioner Billings made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Combra seconded the motion. (3 ayes).

Meeting Adjourned 4:41 pm