

**TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD ("PRAB")
Minutes of September 5, 2023 Meeting**

In Attendance: Karl Hinrichs, Jeff Scott, Norma Hill, Sharon Weiss, Brad Lerman, Brian Baranaskas, Brendan Molloy, Matt Milim, Matt Trainor, Lisa Larsen

Absent: None

Guests: Ed Woodyard, Nancy Battistelli, Kay Anderson, Angela Monforte, Mitzi Weissman, Carol Bidjarano

Minutes: Minutes of the June 6th meeting were accepted and approved.

OLD BUSINESS - UPDATES

Lombardi Park and IBM Field Projects: A robust discussion was held regarding the possibility of converting Fields 1 and 2 at IBM Community Park from grass to artificial turf. Preliminary information along with cost estimates from Kellard Sessions were presented to the PRAB. Brendan Molloy was in favor of moving forward with the turf conversion as long as it's an organic configuration. The conversion to turf at IBM 1 and 2 reduces the regular manpower workload regarding maintenance in addition to the increase in available athletic space. Jeff Scott noted that even with the turfing of IBM 1 and 2, we will still need to be careful about allocating space. Chairman Hinrichs said that with resource constraints, he doesn't see the feasibility of doing both the IBM and Lombardi Park projects. Brian Baranaskas indicated that even with the doubling of available space that there will still be capacity issues. Finally, strong support for the turfing of IBM 1 and 2 was expressed by the leadership of the Armonk sports clubs: baseball, football, lacrosse, and soccer. These clubs believe that the additional turf fields will allow greater participation by Town residents, a clear positive.

Lombardi Park Water Upgrades: Lombardi Park water has tested positive for coliform. Renting portable johns along with refillable sinks would appease the Department of Health temporarily. Superintendent Trainor indicated that the complete solution would be to tie the Lombardi Park into the Town of North Castle public water system on an emergency basis. The cost of this hookup would be \$461,000 to be paid through the Fund Balance. Closing the current well in favor of the hookup to Town water would also mean that there would be no reliance on the old Recreation building at the park, which is a positive. Brendan Molloy also commented and expressed concern that the Lombardi Park project should be taken off the table in regard to pricing and that it doesn't fix the main issue.

On another matter, Brendan said that he would also like to see Wampus Brook South to be natural gardens for the adult community.

Pool: The members of the PRAB are all well acquainted with the significant issues regarding the Town Pool. DOH will need to perform a maintenance inspection of the deck and interior of the pool. Superintendent Trainor said that Kellard Sessions is working on a proposal to look at the pool and facility from an all-encompassing perspective. Engineer findings will determine next steps. One clear problem concerns flow rates from the pool pumps: the pumps are ancient and not working satisfactorily. Additionally, the manufacturers don't make our pumps any longer; therefore, simple replacement of parts is not an option. Nu-Clear Pool Service will do pressure tests before the pool shuts down for the season. Liaison Milim said that the cost to continue to lease the pool is \$110,000. What is key to the economics of the pool is to maintain current membership while increasing membership by bringing in new members. The pool is a really nice town amenity that should make us money, not cost us money.

Wampus Brook Park Lighting / Electric: The bid specs are complete and are ready to be prepared to go out to bid.

Wampus Brook Park North Bridge: Still needs to be scheduled and coordinated with Anthony Ruvo.

Wampus Brook Park Mushrooms - VOTE: Angela Monforte spoke briefly regarding the Beautification Committee's purchase of the mushrooms and their intent to have them placed in the park for the community to use and enjoy. Chairman Hinrichs said there were emails from Sharon Tomback and Robbie Morris in opposition. Superintendent Trainor encouraged the PRAB to vote on the motion to have the mushrooms and the picnic tables placed in Wampus Brook North. All seven PRAB members voted NO to the mushrooms and all seven PRAB members voted YES to the picnic tables.

Bike Trails: Recommendations remain the same. Survey feedback has been very clear to follow through in a timely manner. Jeff Scott indicated that he emailed Highway Foreman Jamie Norris but doesn't have a response yet. Superintendent Trainor to speak to Jamie Norris; Jeff Scott to forward to Matt the email that he sent to Jamie. Chairman Hinrichs said to ask for everything (points 1-4 on distributed handout) to be done in Town would result in huge engineering costs. Liaison Milim is okay with points 1 and 2 but doesn't understand points 3 and 4; he wants to know the path forward before engineering work is done. At the next meeting, there will be a proposal presented from Jamie Norris and Adam Kaufman as to what can be done.

Other: Member Weiss would like to hold a summer movie night in the park. The idea never got off and running in 2023, but Superintendent Trainor said that his assistant, Jennifer Giusti, has begun working on plans for 2024. Member Weiss also asked if the PRAB had a five-year plan to list and prioritize projects and to have a direction forward.

Next Meeting: 10/3/23

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.