

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
Meeting Minutes
December 28, 2021
Board of Public Works Conference Room

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2022 SEP 15 P 1:45
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Members present: Stephen Santos, Alex Simao, Daniel Soares

Members absent: John Davis, Keith Ouellette

Also Present: Kenneth Batista

At 6:00 PM Mr. Santos called the meeting to order. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPOINTMENTS:

6:00 pm Sean McBride, Recreation Department – Whitney Park Improvements

The Board met with Mr. McBride and Selectmen James Genette. Mr. Santos read a letter and petition from residents requesting a pickle ball court be installed at Whitney Park. Mr. McBride stated that pickle ball is the fastest growing sport in the country. Several surrounding communities are installing them. He stated that the tennis courts located at Whitney Park are in very poor shape and are utilized by skateboarders and kids on bicycles more than used for tennis. He recommends adding pickle ball courts as it would be an asset to the Town. Mr. Santos is concerned about the parking at Whitney Park. Mr. McBride stated that parking over the years doesn't seem to be a big issue during the Thanksgiving Day football game that is held there. Mr. McBride does not recommend that a parking area be installed within the park due to safety and liability. Mr. Genette stated that there are probably other areas that a pickle ball court could be installed. He is concerned that residents who live in that neighborhood might not want pickle ball located at Whitney Park. Mr. McBride stated that he believes that residents would want to see a park being used rather than an unmaintained property.

Mr. Soares stated that he would like to see a skateboarding park also added to the Town. He stated that several surrounding communities already have or are planning to add skateboard parks. He also stated that there has never been an Olympic skateboarder from the New England area. He would really like to see a skateboard park installed in Ludlow. We really don't have anything to offer our youth.

Mr. McBride stated that for many years, whenever he has come before the Boards in Town that there just isn't any money or help to install and/or maintain any facilities. He stated that he has been told that for years. We have to start investing in our Town.

Mr. Genette stated that we can't even maintain what we have now. We have to start doing that before we can add new facilities.

Mr. Soares stated that if the Town can't do the maintenance, then hire out and have a contractor do the maintenance. Put it in the annual budget.

Mr. Santos asked Mr. McBride, if we put a Capitol Request together what do you want to see on it? Mr. McBride stated a pickle ball court, not the repair of the tennis courts because in four years we may want to add pickle ball and you won't do it because the tennis courts were just recently replaced. Mr. Simao stated he agreed. Mr. Simao made a motion, seconded by Mr. Soares, that we get some prices and go to Capitol for two pickle ball courts and to repair two tennis courts at Whitney Park. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

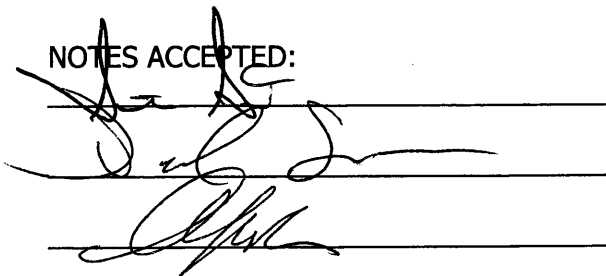
Mr. Santos stated that he would like to move forward with plans on recreation areas in general between the Board of Public Works, the Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectmen. Including a skateboard park, bettering what we currently have. Another discussion would be the grandstands at Whitney Park. Mr. Genette stated that they are hearing that the ARPA funding will not come through until 2023 or 2024. MR. Santos stated that he believes the bleachers are structurally sound. Mr. Genette stated that he wanted to make it clear that these monies have not been allocated to any projects. There haven't been any decisions made as to where these funds are going. Mr. Santos stated that the press box at the Park has been repaired to make it usable. He stated that he just needs to know where the funds will come from the make the complete repairs needed. Mr. McBride stated if the bleachers are sound, nothing needs to be done. He stated that he thinks the DPW should move forward with getting pricing to replace the press box with an enclosed one. Mr. Santos stated that he wants to have a list of projects with costs ready to go so when monies do come through, the Department is ready to go.

Mr. Santos asked Mr. Batista to request costs for the tennis courts.

Mr. Santos stated that there are issues with the boiler at the fieldhouse at Whitney Park. Alves Fuels made some repairs but the boiler needs to be replaced. He Asked Alves Fuels to provide pricing for the replacement. He will speak to the Capitol Improvement Committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Simao to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Soares. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

NOTES ACCEPTED:



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