

# **TOWN OF LINCOLN**

## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING**

**DECEMBER 14, 2005**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Commission members present were Chairman Kevin Bryson, Paul Hetu, Gerry Dumas, Gary Stott, David Boyle, and Roy Coulombe. Special attendees Eric Borelli, Mr. Sylvestre and Ron McKenna.**

**Chairman Bryson makes a motion that all invited guests are very welcome here but at not to sit at the table they will have to sit off to the side. This would not include Administration. Motion seconded by Paul Hetu. Unanimously accepted.**

**The minutes of the previous meeting were read. A correction was made to page 1 regarding the RFP for Landscape Architect Professional Design Service for Angell Rd., Manville, and Limeacres. The minutes are now corrected to read as follows: A copy of the RFP for Landscape Architect Professional Design Service for Angell Rd., Manville, and Limeacres was passed around to Commission members by Chairman Bryson for review. Award will be in December.**

**Motion by Roy Coulombe, seconded by Paul Hetu to accept the November minutes as corrected.**

**Chairman Bryson asks for Commission reports:**

**Paul Hetu – Saylesville, no report.**

**Roy Coulombe – Lonsdale, the building that houses the Snack Bar should be**

**looked at by the Building Inspector it is getting worse.**

**David Boyle - No report.**

**Gary Stott - Fairlawn, no report.**

**Chairman Bryson asks if anyone checked out Limearces and Manville.**

**Gerry Dumas - Manville. Mr. Dumas states he took a walk through the Park**

**and noticed the fence at the Little League Field needs a lot of**

**attention. The top rail is not even making connection with the**

**post. It is very dangerous. He thinks that urgent repairs are**

**needed before the beginning of the next baseball season. There**

**is another matter as you go in the entrance way that is a post**

that has electrical power that people used when they had outings. He doesn't know if it is being used anymore. When you go into the Park it is tilting towards the Basketball Court. It is very dangerous. It has to be fixed. It may be rotted at the bottom. It is a telephone pole with electrical power coming to it.

**Pg 2 (Dec. minutes) Parks & Recreation Commission**

**Chairman Bryson: Is it between the Little League Field and Basketball Court?**

**Gerry Dumas: It is between the Softball Field and the Basketball Court next to the Playground.**

**Chairman Bryson states he will volunteer to take his welding rig up there and fix the fence.**

**Gerry Dumas states that some of it should be replaced as well.**

**Chairman Bryson states he could make it safe then the yellow stuff could be put across the top.**

**Chairman Bryson states that this situation will have to be made known to the Administration.**

**Chairman Bryson – Quinville, nothing except that they did do a nice leave clearing  
job.**

**No Director's Report.**

**Discussion on the RFP for the Angell Rd. Little League Field:**

**Chairman Bryson states that the Town Council demanded options and 1 paragraph in the RFP eliminated all options. It is nice to have architectural designs for Limeacres and Manville we can use them at some time but why put them in with something that you are going out for bid on one project when the Council isn't even going to look at anything that comes forward from this.**

**Roy Coulombe states that the feasibility of the High School plan was not even talked about. It is a big part of what the Commission has talked about.**

**He got an email from Charlie Robert regarding seminars for all their Superintendents regarding artificial turf . They are doing it in Massachusetts on all these of schools because the Massachusetts**

taxpayers are seeing a savings and you can dream about this stuff or talk about this stuff and if you don't know what you are talking about it doesn't make any difference. He has done a couple of them already and is very excited.

Roy states getting back to the RFP the fact that that component wasn't mentioned is an insult.

### **Pg 3 (Dec. minutes) Parks & Recreation Commission**

Chairman Bryson states after reading the RFP that the Commission's proposal was not considered at all. He spoke with John Sharkey at length about this and he gave him a copy of this and he agreed . Mr. Sharkey was going to talk with the Administrator and try to make sure that the Commission's proposal is considered.

And we all totally agree we are not magicians and we are not always right, we could be wrong on what we are proposing here as well as we know that the Administration's proposal is probably most definitely off with their prices because we know that its going to cost more than they are talking about to bring in utilities, I think. I could be wrong again but let the experts decide and not just do one proposal. I believe that a good portion of the \$850,000.00 just bringing the utilities into that facility and building that road. So what is left for the field? How does everybody else feel?

David Boyle feels it was a lot work for one purpose.

**Roy Coulombe feels that it doesn't matter what John Sharkey says or anybody else the RFP is already out. It's done.**

**Chairman Bryson says that when John Sharkey really started thinking about our proposal he came up with a suggestion of not taking all that fill out of the hill but just level it. He is willing to talk about it.**

**David Boyle states that Manville and Limacres both have utilities and both have parking, is there a possibility for parking across from the new Middle School.**

**Gary Stott states Beauregard property east of the Middle School that could be good because the parking for the middle school is on the same side water and electricity is there and you would not be spending money on utilities and a road. It's there.**

**Chairman Bryson: Didn't we discuss this before and we did not think that it was a good idea.**

**Roy Coulombe states the architect told us the land is perfect.**

**Chairman Bryson says when they took a good look at it as far as parking....**

**Roy Coulombe states as far as parking it was a big problem getting**

from the school property to that property without going out into the road. It would be a very long walk out on the road with no sidewalks and elderly people or in inclement weather people would just park out on the road.

#### **Pg 4 (Dec. minutes) Parks & Recreation Commission**

**Gary Stott states he is still not convinced that some path or something couldn't be built from the middle school into that property and make a nice walkway so people would not be on the street.**

**Chairman Bryson states it would have to go across wetlands. We were told that by the Architect.**

**Roy Coulombe it was 100 some odd feet.**

**Eric Borrelli states that there are two reason that he is at the Commission meeting. One immediate reason is that back at the 2005 Financial Town Meeting their organization applied for a resolution for \$88,000.00 to do the Side High School Field that runs along Washington Highway.**

**Supposedly in the next 10 years that field is where they are going to build the new High School and work towards the High School. They**

**think this will be done in the next five to seven year and maximum ten years. So to spend \$90,000.00 there or \$9,000.00 per year for ten years they felt would not be a good investment.**

**Chairman Bryson asks where Eric got this information.**

**Eric Borrelli states that he got the information from the School Department.**

**Eric Borrelli says his organization agreed that it would not be a good investment for five, seven or ten years. So they came to the conclusion to move the money and the field to behind the football field.**

**Eric Borrelli showed an Ariel photo of the football field to the Commission. Field would behind the Access Road. There is a slight incline, but in talking to excavators and different contractors they would grade and flatten the slope and there would be no problem. This report is from a biologist and there are wetlands down there but where we are going to put the field there is no impact whatsoever. Our organization paid to do this. We paid construction people to design the plans. There is no impact to the wetlands whatsoever. So Basically I came here to tell you we have the \$88,000.00 for lights, drainage, sod and irrigation. The only thing we are missing is \$25,000.00. We should gather that money because our resolution is going to the Town Council on the 20th of December to be heard. We**

are going to ask that the \$88,000.00 be put into the school as a school improvement and we get 30% back from the state and that 30% will give us \$27,000.00 to destump, level and excavate that will range anywhere from \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 and we will be \$2,000.00 under budget. We got quotes from Municipal lighting. We have \$49,000.00 allocated for lighting and the quote came in at \$47,000.00 and change. The other \$39,000.00 of the \$88,000.00 was for the sod, loam, drainage and irrigation and the

### **Pg 5 (Dec. minutes) Parks & Recreation Commission**

price came in at \$38,000 - \$37,000.00. We are under budget on all three phases. We got support from the School Committee on Monday.

They are going to support us and write letters to the Town Council to get a Special Financial Town Meeting to move this and that is what we are asking the Town Council to do.

Chairman Bryson that money has to be moved with another Resolution.

Eric Borrelli states that there needs to be another Resolution and put into the School Department and that Resolution needs to be voted on.

Paul Hetu asks if there is any place for parking.

Eric Borrilli says that the parking will be in the High School area and

**you can park on the Access Road. He is going to ask permission to also have parking at Crest, it is not concrete yet. This would be for the month of August, September, October and November.**

**Roy Coulombe asked the time frame.**

**Eric Borrilli says they are trying to get it done for April. If we get the resolution passed and the meeting passed and the money out there the excavators are ready to go. Then in 7 – 8 weeks the whole thing is done. The synthetic turf is about \$400,000.00 we did our homework on that.**

**Eric Borrilli said the second thing he would like to talk about is the \$850,000.00 that the Town received talking about the High School Football Field. If we could get \$400,000.00 of that we could make that a state of the art field and you could make money with that field. To turf and light that field it would be \$600,000.00 to do the whole job. If you put it as a School Committee Budget and get 30% back from the Town that would bring you back \$180,000.00 minus that from the \$600,000.00 and that would be \$420,000.00. You would also get back 30% back from the Federal Government for the reprocessed tires for the actual turf, so you have got another \$180,000.00 back so the field would only really cost about \$420,000.00 .Over the twenty years you will see just in maintenance alone about \$100,000.00 not just maintenance that's a low ball you save about \$25,000.00 on paint because every time you have to paint the field for soccer, football,**

lacrosse its \$250.00. That is like \$5,000.00 per year and in twenty years it would be another \$100,000.00. Not only that but you have the best field in the state and everybody wants to play on there and every play off game generates \$800.00 to \$1,000.00 per game. You will have Soccer playoffs, Soccer Championships there, Football playoffs there, Football Championships there Lacrosse, Middle School and the number is a constant number. This field is pretty much maintenance free for twenty years. General maintenance plan which is a small amount of money much much cheaper than the

#### **Pg 6 (Dec. minutes) Parks & Recreation**

maintenance of the field now. Not only would you satisfy 11 teams you would satisfy high school football, high school lacrosse, high school soccer, high school field hockey, middle field hockey, middle school soccer, youth football, youth soccer. You would be constantly using this field and it would never wear out.

Kevin Bryson ask if Eric Borrelli is aware of the Commission's proposal for Manville.

Eric Borrelli says that Roy was filling him in on that proposal.

Kevin Bryson asks if he thinks that this could benefit this project of taking that fill from taking that hill down and bringing it down there

**and level it out.**

**Eric Borrelli says that after talking with the excavator they might need some fill but he is saying is there is probably enough fill from the site work. Fill is never, never wasted.**

**Chairman Bryson thanks Eric Borelli for all the work by his organization.**

**Chairman Bryson says the Commission would glad to address both Mr. McKenna and Mr. Sylvestre at once. They both represent Manville in one way or another.**

**Chairman Bryson asks Mr. McKenna is he is aware of the Commissions proposal for Manville as he got the letter from Gerry.**

**Chairman Bryson asks Mr. Sylvestre if he is aware of the proposal. A copy was given to Mr.Sylvestre and states that the main reason he was invited was to find out what is going out with Manville Park. Are the numbers declining or are they going strong and what are your intentions with it.**

**Mr. Sylvestre states it is the same thing as it has always been for the kids in Manville. It is a low cost league. They charge \$20.00 a flat rate fee. They get shirt and hats that they get to keep. Every kid gets a uniform. Every kid get some food at the end of a game. They are not**

**competing with Little League. They have been established in Manville before Little League minor league system and that is the history and it will stay the same as long as he is doing it. And whoever else I can talk to will probably will be going the exact same thing.**

**Roy Coulombe ask how many kids.**

**Mr. Sylvestre states roughly about 100 kids from six to twelve years, boys and girls.**

**Pg 7 (Dec. minutes) Parks and Recreation**

**Chairman Bryson ask if there organization would have problems sharing the fields with Little League.**

**Mr. Sylvestre states absolutely because they have that one field. Before we used to have that big field in the front and that used to be our practice field and we had four teams on that practice field and rotate around to share that one diamond. Now with Soccer coming along all they get is that Baseball game only for a certain period of time. We can't use that Softball field before 5:00 o'clock now because the Middle School is using it. So that means that we half the practice time that we used to have. They use our fields five to six days a week.**

**The only day off is on Sunday and Little League uses it on Friday nights.**

**Chairman Bryson asks if they have been using it on Friday nights.**

**Mr. Sylvestre says yes they have been using it on Friday nights.**

**The season is April to June 20 plus or minus. They play 10 games. Roughly about six weeks.**

**Chairman Bryson asks if the teams get to do much practicing.**

**Mr. Sylvestre states that they do not get to do much practicing. Of late they get one or two practices. They are extremely tight in terms of practice.**

**Chairman Bryson asks as a suggestion would they be interested in using Albion.**

**Mr. Sylvestre states no because kids ride there bikes to the field.**

**Chairman Bryson states that one of the major concerns for this proposal was the children of Manville.**

**Mr. Sylvestre states that what he was reading in the letter was that basically they wanted to kick them off their fields.**

**Chairman Bryson states no. I know that you could infer that but**

that's totally not the situation. By building two practice fields up there and lighting the field we felt that possibly we could get something together here.

Mr. Sylvestre states alright lets say that you could fix up the Manville field, we have been working toward that goal for ten years anyway. Basically what we are trying to do is when we first started Gerry had a lot of kids who should have been playing Little League but they weren't for whatever reason they weren't going. We had a huge span of quality players but six and seven year olds playing. So it was a little

**Pg 8 (Dec. minutes) Parks & Recreation**

dangerous. The first year they made a summer league we did Little League rules. We are been working on improving our fields. We cut trees that were

overhanging the fences. The next step is to move the fences back and we have plenty of room to do it and bring it to Little League specs. They did the backstop eight years ago. Even if you had lighting there I don't know how many extras games you could get in other than playing on Saturday nights and Friday nights who is going to want a game starting at 8:00 o'clock on Monday and Tuesday when kids are in school.

Roy Coulombe states that the Commission does not know enough

**about the organization and there is no intent to kick anyone out of anything that is why you were invited here to try to find out what your real needs are and what your schedule looks like. Under no conditions do we want to displace your organization.**

**Chairman Bryson asks how do you feel about our proposal, are we wasting our time as far as trying to help you.**

**Mr. Sylvestre states no of course not.**

**Chairman Bryson states because that is our main objective.**

**Mr. Sylvestre states his the only concern is that the additional lights are not going to add extra games on during the week the kids are just too young. Every year we have to submit to Parks & Rec what we want. Two coaches lived n Albion and wanted to practice on an Albion field and it was not being used and it got rejected. So if I say yes we can co-exist and I send my slip and they say ok now you are only going to be playing on Monday and Wednesday.**

**Roy Columbe says that Park and Recreation has to start dealing out in the open. Things like this that you hear guys getting rejected from using the fields for youth organizations and nobody is on the fields. We have seen years of it. People out there crying about not getting fields, we don't have enough fields, nobody is on the fields but nobody can use them. This is the type of stuff you can't have any fear**

**and make a phone call and say look why can't I get this field.**

**Chairman Bryson asks Mr. McKenna what are his feelings on this.**

**Ron McKenna says for one thing he is having a hard time understanding why you guys don't have better communication with Paul Prackniak. This is what I am saying what is there that I can do to get you guys together so that you are all on the same page. There is one objective and that is the recreational facilities that they are offered to everybody in Town. Now my interest is Manville. Definitely the Farm League.**

**PG 9 (Dec. minutes) Park & Recreation**

**Mr. McKenna says it is not just his responsibility there are four other Councilman because you are all from different districts and we need to get you all on the same page.**

**Chairman Bryson states that the Commission asks them to come and they ask for monthly reports.**

**Gary Stott says Commission has not had a monthly report in 4 or 5 months.**

**Ron McKenna states that he gets a report every month.**

**Chairman Bryson says that the Administrator would ask that Paul would give us a report about what is going on in Parks & Recreation, with the kids, in programs, what is coming up and whats in the works.**

**Ron McKenna said Paul did a survey at the Manville Carnival regarding thoughts about the Park. No results are in yet. As of today the bids are back and 2 firms will be interviewed. He will protect Manville's interests and then the Town. He received 71 e-mails, 4-5 phone calls, 1 opposed. There is a commitment to Little League not tournaments. He questions why Lincoln has to be the host. He would like to see the money spread out and benefit as many as possible including Manville.**

**Roy Coulombe states we are here for everyone.**

**Ron McKenna says we must get maximum use of money.**

**Paul Hetu asks if the RFP was opened.**

**Ron McKenna says yes to be voted on at regular meeting.**

**Chairman Bryson says final approval on lease some time this month.**

**Roy Coulombe believes there is not enough money for Angell Road.**

**Ron McKenna says it is a 10-year lease renewable in 10 yrs in the same condition offered to the Town.**

**Gerry Dumas is trying to give money for improvement (\$23,000.00+) toward improvements to Park.**

**Mr. Sylvestre says they should fix fields.**

**Pg 10 (Dec. minutes) Parks & Recreation**

**Chairman Bryson says the outfield fence should be replaced.**

**Mr. Sylvestre says a pole is leaning.**

**Paul Hetu supports move discussed by Eric Borrelli.**

**Chairman Bryson says make a motion and send it on saying the Commission supports Eric Borrelli.**

**Motion in support of Lincoln Youth Football's request for a Special Financial Town Meeting to allot money from Municipal budget to School budget for a new lighted, irrigated, practice Football facility down below the High School Football field.**

**Motion seconded by Paul Hetu.**

**Accepted unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.**