

North Smithfield Parks & Rec Commission

Meeting Minutes 7/27/15

Members present: Phil Paul, Robert Cesario, Marc Gagnon, George Dys

Members Excused: Peter Dowling, Rob Skinner and Ray Pendergast

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Meeting discussions:

It was noted that Anthony Solys, as an elected member of the Town Council can no longer serve on the Parks & Recreations Commission. His service on the Commission, while brief, was appreciated.

Minutes from meeting of 3/30/15 and 5/25/16 were approved.

Jackie Bourque and her children, Alex and Lauren of 15 Thayer Court, North Smithfield appeared before the Commission to voice their concern about the present condition of the Tennis Courts located near the High School. They noted that there are holes and bumps on the courts and the cracks and weeds that are present which make play difficult and can be hazardous. They noted that the fence doors are not aligned and the bottom fencing is undone in some places which allows tennis balls to escape under the fence. The area around the courts also has a significant amount of weeds and there is a lack of trash receptacles'. As the courts are used for interscholastic play, the condition of the courts reflects upon North Smithfield to out of towners.

Alex Bourque presented his thoughts about the condition of the courts by reading from a written statement. That statement is attached.

Phil Paul did pass along a message from Ray Pendergast that the Council had approved an expenditure of up to \$75,000 for court improvements. An RPF will be issued for this work.

Old Business:

Pacheco Park Initiative: No update.

Dog Park: Discussion was held. The need to move forward with an action plan with funding is needed. While it's nice to discuss having a Dog Park what is needed is a spot with enough land & water.

Insurance coverage for Little League Field Day: It was noted that coverage thru the RI Interlocal Trust does cover this event.

Discussion on fee structure for Field use: Still being worked on.

New Business:

Pumpkin Festival: Will be held in September. More info to follow.

Next Meeting: We will meet at Pacheco Park for brief business meeting and then a walking tour of the park with a trip to railroad area that has been discussed as a possible site for a dog park.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25 pm.

At think that the tennis courts need

- the snow shovels before the practice start for the boys.

- cracks taken care of

- overflowing trash cans.

- too much grass grown over

- fences ~~broken~~ covered of better

- the fences cant be shut, Balls go through

- these are cracks on the courts ~~with weeds~~

more one bumps on the courts which is a safety issue

kindly ~~number~~ embarrassing when other schools come here

because they are in poor shape. Can we do anything to help?