

**Manchester By The Sea
Parks and Recreation Committee
Minutes for January 24, 2019**

Present: Sean Daly, (Chairman), Mike Coyne, Tod Johnson, Olga Hayes and Cheryl Marshall (Director Of Parks and Recreation) and Joseph Demeo

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Daly at 6:15 p.m.

- A. The Committee considered the Special Events Permit Application of Pathways for Children. Virginia Kiefer appeared and presented the application for a Halloween Haunted Chapel Fundraiser at Crowell Chapel. The event will be opened to the public and a \$10-15 fee will be charged. October 25, 2019 is her first choice for the event date. The committee found the application, which is now on file, to be detailed and complete. Members discussed alcohol, police details and appropriateness of the site given its proximity to an historic cemetery. Motion to recommend issuance of Special Events Permit by M. Coyne and seconded by O. Hayes. Motion approved unanimously.
- B. There was a Motion to Accept the Minutes of the November 8, 2018 meeting. Approved unanimously.
- C. Updates and Projects: The Committee discussed CPA new projects and updates. Cheryl Marshall presented a written chart of the proposed Community Preservation projects and amounts requested for FY20. According to Ms. Marshall, all requests were approved except the request for pickle ball courts. The proposed site is instead being used for staging during the new elementary school construction. Among the amounts funded was \$10,000 for closed circuit cameras at Singing Beach. This request was opposed by at least one member of the Committee. Ms. Marshall explained that the Singing Beach camera could not be used as a livestream, and would only be referenced by the police and Town if there was cause to do so.
- D. Field Permit Requests: Mike Coyne discussed AAU's use of field space on the back end of Sweeney Park. Cheryl Marshall stated that the allocation of turf and other field space would remain the same this Spring as it did last year. Manchester Essex Youth Soccer is to be given 4 days of field space usage while Cape Ann youth Lacrosse is to be given only 1 day of usage. Ms. Marshall said this outcome was required in light of the new Fields Policy passed last spring after lacrosse proponents petitioned for more access to field space. This led to an extensive discussion by all members of the appropriateness and fairness of field space allocation.
 - a. Tod Johnson pointed out that the new policy gave preference to MEYS because it had 90 percent participation by Manchester and Essex youths, while CAYL had 70 percent participation. Mr. Coyne explained that baseball and football would like more access to field space in the fall and spring. Mr. Demeo contended that the new field policy was ill-conceived and plainly partial to soccer, which is a fall sport. While it is acceptable for soccer to have the fields in the fall, it is not acceptable for soccer to also control the fields for the spring he said. Lacrosse is a spring sport with 135 manchester and Essex children participating. Mr. Demeo argued the field policy was arbitrary and was written in a manner that would always guaranty MEYS possession of the turf fields in spring time. Mr. Johnson suggested that a compromise between soccer and lacrosse was

possible. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Demeo agreed to have the principals of each league contact each other to see if something could be worked out. Committee members discussed having a hearing with the principals of lacrosse and soccer and any other stakeholders to discuss field space allocation. Mr. Demeo stated that the new fields policy needs to be reconsidered and amended before next year.

- E. The Committee considered the Special Events Permit Application of Yukon Sports, LLC. to hold a Half-Marathon-by-the-Sea on September 29, 2019. The applicant Rich Morrell was not present. The Committee discussed whether this and other for-profit applicants should be paying a higher usage fee for Town facilities than non-profit entities. There was not a consensus and no action was taken on that issue. The application is on file. Motion to recommend issuance of Special Events Permit by O. Hayes and seconded by M. Coyne. Motion approved unanimously.
- F. The Committee considered the Special Events Permit Application of Cape Ann PMC Kids Ride to hold a Cape Ann PMC Kids Ride on Saturday, September 28, 2019. The event is open to the public and would be staged at Masconomo Park. The applicant and event co-chair Jennifer Doane was not present. The Committee discussed the merits of the application. A copy of the application is on file. Motion to recommend issuance of Special Events Permit by O. Hayes and seconded by M. Coyne. Motion approved unanimously.
- G. Manchester By The Sea 375th Anniversary Celebration. The Committee members and Cheryl Marshall discussed the upcoming milestone for the Town and potential events. Olga Hayes impressed the Committee with her explanation of her 25 mile walk for good will at the 350th Celebration.
- H. Boards and Committees Education: Sean Daly discussed the recent one-day education seminar offered on how to run Board and Committee meetings. He stated it was very informative and much better than he thought it would be. He recommended it to others. Olga Hayes stated that people on boards are volunteering for the benefit of the Town.
- I. The committee discussed the next meeting date and agenda items. Mr. Coyne requested an agenda item concerning a letter to the MERSD concerning cost of field space and field renovations.
- J. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.