

PEQUOT LAKES PARK COMMISSION MINUTES
MONDAY, May 20, 2024 - Draft
Sibley Park

Members Present: Members Present: Commissioners Boucher, Clement, Lind, Simar and Chair Adams. Absent: Commissioner Churack

Also Present: Angie Duus, City Administrator; Julie Meister, Administrative Assistant, Nick Roy, Public Works Supervisor, Member of the community; Whitney Magee

Location: Sibley Park, Picnic Shelter

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Nancy Adams calls the meeting to order at 4:55 p.m.

2. Consider Agenda

COMMISSIONER CLEMENT MOVES TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA. CHAIR ADAMS SECOND THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

3. Park Commission Minutes

COMMISSIONER LIND MOVES TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 22, 2024 MEETING. COMMISSIONER CLEMENT SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

4. Tree Study Update

Commissioner Keith Simar offers members to guess the age of a red pine tree based off the core sample he shows the members. Members provide their individual guesses. Mr. Simar states this sample shows the age of this tree at 115-years-old. Members are now invited to take a walk to the tree line at Sibley Lake Park. Mr. Simar points out that a tree's diameter is really related to tree spacing and possibly thinning out seedlings to ease the overcrowding of the forest line. Mr. Simar also comments on being a good neighbor and adding No Trespassing signs on the two ends of the property line where the walking trail follows the lake. Mr. Simar shows what is ladder fuel. As an example, if someone were to be playing with fire down by the lake, ladder fuel is very quick to catch on fire and would with little effort spread up the hill. Mr. Simar suggests with

supervision a Scout group could assist in thinning out the seedlings with handsaws. Mr. Simar points out the different trees already established in the park and the process of forest succession and developing the forest over time and how some trees are more shade tolerant than other trees. Chair Nancy Adams comments on keeping the White Pine and Maple Trees. Members continue to walk further along the tree line and Mr. Simar points out erosion and how the trees provide stability to the structure. Mr. Simar takes members to a trail by the opening to view the lake. Discussion ensued on what has been removed or steps taken to help with the erosion at this location. Members walk down the hill to the base of the trail by the sitting bench. Mr. Simar continues to express the importance of tree spacing. If you want large trees, you will want about thirty feet of space to keep the branches from intertwining. Mr. Simar also suggests the removal of the deciduous ash trees would allow the red and white pine to continue to grow. Mr. Simar states we could consider getting some tree work done. Mr. Simar notes it would be expensive, but we could get a contractor such as Mike's Tree Service to assist with a future project. Mr. Simar makes a recommendation of placing wood duck houses in the trees along the lake. Wood ducks will naturally nest in hollow trees and are common to find along rivers and streams, typically they are not near open bodies of water. Mr. Simar would still like to try adding wood duck houses. Public Works Supervisor Nick Roy wonders if by clearing the trees, now would make them more susceptible to heavy snow and wind? Mr. Simar even says when doing a commercial harvest, they typically will not do more than 1/3rd of the trees selectively being removed at one time. Ms. Adams asks, would it be best as a starting point to start thinning out on the hill to give space? Discussion ensued when Mr. Simar questioned Commissioner Sam Clement on whether his troop would be available to assist in thinning out the young samplings on the top of the hill. Mr. Simar next shows members another access point to the road and wonders if it would be a benefit of placing a Welcome Sign to lead people to come down the trail this way versus having them come down on the potential erosion trail like this one.

Members return to the Picnic Shelter at Sibley Lake Park for continuation of the meeting.

Keith Simar leaves the meeting at 5:28pm.

Ms. Adams notices the 2024 priorities on front of her file folder and Sibley Lake Park Forest is listed as number three. Ms. Adams looks to Mr. Roy for suggestions. Mr. Roy states needing volunteers to help thin out the hill. Ms. Adams asks Mr. Clement to speak with his Boy Scout Troop. Mr. Clement has a Scout meeting tonight and will ask his partner but questions what is it he would like for them to do? Ms. Adams wants a group of young people to work at Sibley Lake Park to thin trees on the hill toward the lake.

COMMISSIONER LIND MOVES TO WORK ON THE HILL WITH VOLUNTEERS. COMMISSIONER CLEMENT SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

Ms. Adams will have Mr. Simar present to supervise and Mr. Roy will not be expected to be in attendance. Ms. Adams also includes Park Board members to join in the hill project.

5. Holiday Decorations Update

Chair Nancy Adams notes the only thing provided by Commissioner Kim Churack was that she was provided a poster located in Crosslake at the Dam, advertising a brat and hot dog sale. Ms. Adams notes they were able to raise almost \$3,000 for Christmas lights. Ms. Adams states that Ms. Churack is wondering if we would be interested in having something like that? Ms. Adams notes we need to get money for the Park Board. Commissioner Sam Clement offers to possibly visit again the SUPERVALU sign up for a Summer Gig. Ms. Adams and possibly Ms. Churack will look further into having a brat sale.

6. Bands in the Park

Chair Nancy Adams states there's no update.

7. Community Garden Update

Chair Nancy Adams shows a beautiful picture to the members on the progress by Public Works Supervisor Nick Roy and his team. Ms. Adams inquires if we have had anyone sign up? Administrative Assistant Julie Meister provides update on the individual that has signed up and the potential of another applicant to also sign up.

8. DNR Grant for the Park Update

Public Works Supervisor Nick Roy provides update from his meeting with City Engineer Tim Houle and City of Pequot Water/Wastewater Operations Manager Andy Schwartz. Mr. Roy states the bathroom shelter will be in the same location as previously stated. Mr. Roy further updates that the water cannons have been delivered and the water should be turned on the evening of May 23rd. Mr. Roy

updates on the design of the bathroom shelter; adding lights in the soffits, will be unisex on both sides; debating on doing textured block or a flat block, orientated picnic area is to the East, and the bathroom doors are to be West towards the Cole Building because of the cameras going up will cover both exits. Sewer and water to come from East Sibley Street and will go up in between Patriot and playground fence. A few trees will have to be removed along with some bushes on the West side by the playground fence. Chair Nancy Adams wonders when it will start? Mr. Roy states it's currently going out for bids. City Administrator Angie Duus comments will be looking at designs tomorrow and then by June 3rd to have the bid information to us. Ms. Duus also comments that we don't have the grant money quite yet, however we could start and pay ourselves back. Ms. Adams comments on that we do have a second tree grant that gives us trees; we could state that some of the Ash trees that are being removed, we could then use that tree's money to buy new trees. Mr. Roy comments on the big Pine Tree behind the Splash Pad must be removed do to being damaged.

9. Paul Circle Sign Update

Chair Nancy Adams expresses gratitude to Mary Boucher for completing the sign and provides copies of pictures to pass to members in attendance. Commissioner Jeff Boucher updates that Mary has about 14 hours into making the signs and that these have been donated.

10. Community Sign Update

Public Works Supervisor Nick Roy updates the sign should be here in August.

11. Splash Pad Update

Chair Nancy Adams requests Public Works Supervisor Nick Roy to please give her a call when the cannons are installed so that she can take photos for the paper.

12. Other Business

Commissioner Sam Clement updates on Park Board Vacancy on a potential individual that might be interested in joining. Administrator Angie Duus provides verbal update, on this individual has not quite yet moved into the area but is a landowner. Chair Nancy Adams will further check into this.

Ms. Adams raises the topic of flying the State Flag and requests additional information on the topic. City Administrator Angie Duus updates this will be going to Council on June 3rd to see if they want to fly the new State Flag due to the controversy surrounding the design and looks to the Park Board for a recommendation. We have had someone contact us and is willing to donate money to buy the new flag. Ms. Adams questions what the controversy surrounding it. Discussion ensued. Ms. Adams comments that instead we could fly the Pequot Flag.

CHAIR ADAMS MAKES A MOTION TO CITY COUNCIL THAT THE PARK BOARD WOULD PREFER TO FLY THE PEQUOT FLAG RATHER THAN THE STATE FLAG COMMISSIONER CLEMENT SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

Ms. Adams will be present at the June 3, 2024, City Council meeting to provide the verbal Park Board update.

Mr. Clement wonders when do we need to sign up for dates for Bands in the Park? Ms. Adams notes that she is also still working on the schedule for the Popcorn Wagon. Ms. Duus suggests that Administrative Assistant Julie Meister prepare a sign-up sheet and email the board.

Mr. Clement also inquires on the date of the June Park Board meeting. Ms. Meister states it's June 24, 2024. Mr. Clement will be absent from this meeting along with potentially Commissioner Jeff Boucher could still be out of town.

Ms. Adams states that Commissioner Dave Lind will speak with Mike Jackson on park board vacancy.

13. Adjournment

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS CHAIR NANCY ADAMS AJORNS MEETING AT 5:49 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Meister, Administrative Assistant