

Town of Middlebury Parks and Recreation



**Betsy Anderson, APRP
Director**

COMMISSIONERS
Ron Clark, Chairman
Jack Worgan
Carolanne Browne
Russell Tolles

MIDDLEBURY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Thursday May 14, 2020
Middlebury Town Hall via Zoom Meeting
Conference Room

Present: Ron Clark, Chairman
Betsy Anderson, Director
Jack Worgan
Carolanne Browne
Russell Tolles

Absent:

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Ron Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

APPROVE MINUTES

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Jack Worgan and seconded by Carolanne Browne to **APPROVE** the March 12, 2020 minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

GREENWAY REPORT

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUDGET

Jack Worgan said there was nothing to discuss this evening.

PERSONNEL

None

BUILDING AND PARKS

Ron Clark said they parks are currently open. He asked if any of the commissioners were interested in switching to building and parks to let him know. He said they will most likely be getting a new commissioner soon. He explained that Ralph Barra had to step down voluntarily because a selectman cannot serve on a board.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Carolanne Browne reported there has been some chatter on social media regarding the MRA opening and the interest in the boat launch opening.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Betsy explained that she just starting working and does not have a formal report to give. She said they are here tonight to discuss the Memorial Day parade and the MRA. She said she has been taking tours of the parks and learning all the things she needs to know about running them and the department. She is hoping to make some possible improvements. She is getting used to everything the position entails.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Discussion regarding the opening of the MRA**

Ron said there needs to be a discussion on opening the MRA under controlled conditions. He explained that Betsy has been working with Chip and others to come up with a plan. Betsy said her conversation with Chip is to have a limited opening for Memorial day weekend. They are proposing being open May 23rd through the 25th with limited hours between 9:00am and 6:00pm. There will be no swimming allowed. A fence will be put up along the beach line. They want to concentrate on getting boaters out, having a possible \$5.00 charge to launch a boat. These boats will be carried in and carried out, and cannot be left. They will require social distancing as well as masks. Residents can bring their own chairs, but must space them apart. Cooking will not be allowed and the snack bar will not be open. However, people can bring their own food in. The tables will be spaced and they will not be allowed to move them. They need to make sure that the residents clearly understand the rules for this soft opening. She asked if the commission wanted to limit the capacity. Jack Worgan said there is no choice, they need to. He asked if there was a reason they were opening, he wasn't saying they shouldn't, but he felt it was the worse weekend. Ron said the First Selectman has encouraged the opening of facilities under controlled circumstances. There needs to be masks and social distancing needs to be practiced. If residents can't follow the rules they will be asked to leave. They have received requests from boaters, and the Governor said people can fish. They will try and get back to some sort of normalcy to get people using the facilities safely. Carolanne suggested blocking every other parking spot to limit the capacity. Ron said it will all be configured under social safety of no crowds, and families won't be able to mingle. Carolanne asked if the bathroom facilities would be open. Ron answered yes, and said there would be the necessary cleaning supplies inside. Betsy said there will need to be employees working, so they are figuring a charge of \$5.00 for each boat. She said that Chip will possibly be building more boat racks. Jack said he is happy they are opening, but he thinks it will be difficult on Memorial Day weekend as far as social distancing goes. A discussion ensued regarding allowing guests.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discussion regarding the Memorial Day Ceremony**

Ron told the commission that the Memorial Day parade has been cancelled. He said the only thing that will occur if the placing of flowers at 4:00pm and the reading of the war dead which will take about 5-10 minutes. The First Selectman did not want to ignore this. Carolanne asked if there was any way to record the ceremony? Betsy said that Barbara Whitaker had volunteered to do it. Ron said it will be a very short ceremony. He noted that Park and Recreation has a really good opportunity as we come into the camp season, and try to work around some of the restrictions. He asked commissioners to look at things, and see how they want to handle it. He said it's a new beginning. There was a discussion regarding the tennis courts in town and whether they can be opened. Ron said it's something to look into. Betsy said she thought they were open but would look into it. Ron welcomed Betsy to the Commission. He said they will continue to use Zoom for their meetings, but if a commissioner feels inclined to come to a meeting, he asked that they do.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED: Unanimously on a motion by Carolanne Browne and seconded by Russell Tolles to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 6:30 PM

cc: Town Clerk
Commission Members
Betsy Anderson
Bill Stowell