

**APPROVED 2/8/2023**  
**MINUTES**  
**POOLESVILLE PARKS BOARD January 4, 2023**  
**19721 BEALL STREET**  
**7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

7:10, Jeff E., Doug, Jeff, Pat, Gayle, Niles, Preston

**NEXT MEETING** February 8, 2023

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

November 9, 2022- Motion of approved minutes by Pat second Doug. All approve

**MEETING NOTES FOR REVIEW**

1. NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER 7TH MEETING

2. NOTES FROM THE OCTOBER 5TH MEETING

- Do we want to use Jeff Ecks notes from Oct and Dec. Noting that the board approves the notes without the Motions and Seconds noted.
- Doug recommend more robust notes as they give a better depiction
- Pat motion to use the notes from Jeff Eck as minutes substitute for the December and October meeting as published. Gayle seconds- All in favor
- Need to determine if we have the August Notes or if we want to use Jeff's notes

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. SPEED HUMP POLICY

- Niles made one change that Jeff wanted to include a footnote about using the speed study.
- Pat motions to move the speed hump policy to the Commissioners for approval, Jeff Eck seconds- All in Favor

2. SKATE PARK DESIGN

- Main thing, as long as the board is on board with the design we discussed in the last meeting, then we will proceed in bidding out the design and all that goes along with it. Pat thought we already made the motion to recommend to the commissioners move forward with Engineer study. Commissioners are for the skate park, moving forward.

3. BOULDERING PARK

- John wanted to discuss details: location, how big of area to use, how many boulders, size of boulders?  
Recommends that we determine how big of an area we want and where we want to locate it. Talked about the center portion of Dillingham park and setting it up there. From there we can deduce how big the boulders would be. John admits he is not a bouldering person, so we may need outside influence.
- Jeff's initial thought is that the circle area would stick out like a sore thumb. Would we have to level it down? Pat, based off of the info given in the packets. Preston says we would have to do some groundwork. Elgin is fully built out, Stevens built out, Halmos built out. Pat under the idea that we should do something there. Doesn't think we need more than one big boulder. Large boulders can have different degrees of difficulty.
- Jeff Eck adds that a colleague, Frank Valles lives in Tama 2, has contacts at the Potomac Trail Club Mountaineering section, and Am. Alpine club in DC. Both organizations have offered to

help Poolesville get an understanding of the Bouldering park. Can we reach out to those people and set up a meeting? Jeff will contact Frank to help arrange a meeting time. Please let the Board know so we can attend if we are available.

Next step, Jeff set up contact with Bouldering groups to meet next month.

- Preliminary recommendation is the park at Dillingham park with the largest boulder we can fit.

#### 4. BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Wiring for Whalen Commons
2. Halmos Bathroom Remodel
3. Stevens Park Lights
  - a. The lighting of a ball field is different from lighting a tennis court. Once they get to a place where they can handle big jobs, we will get there
  - b. If we do something with the lights at Stevens what is the time frame. John says around a 3-4 month process to get the quotes, and talking to the neighbors. Once we have something consolidated then we will invite the neighbors. There would be an additional cost in electricity.
4. Halmos Park Basketball
5. Skatepark
6. Bouldering
7. Elgin Pickleball

#### Lighting

- We have always been a progressive town. All town streetlights are LED. Safety in the town should be paramount. Retrofitted some in Stoney Springs, they look really nice. Save a tremendous amount of maintenance. LED's got rid of the ballast and saved a lot of man hours.
- Two neighborhoods where we have to move the light poles to the proper distance. Niles will check in in the morning to see if that is in there.
- Light at some of the crosswalks

#### Sidewalks

- Is the sidewalk priority list in progress, do you need anything from us?
- 4 way stop at Tom Fox and Hughes, is that budgeted in, yes, in the next repaving cycle.
- Not much movement on sidewalks- currently a big drive is for streetscape, Town received 4 million dollars for the streetscape. Hopefully this is in the budget cycle so that it is prioritized.
- Niles jumped in to say doing training on Federal Grants for safe routes to school.
- Earlier a pedestrian was hit today at 5:00 pm.
- Lights at Wootton and Fisher are up with flashing lights.

Preston and Wade will finish up the budget this week.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Pat spoke with Mr. Willard who mentioned he was not married to any of the suggested names for the streets in that new development.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS & STREETS REPORT:**

- Have 3 electric salt spreaders, looking at electric vehicles. Wade has been good about purchasing electric stuff. Need technology to work under extreme conditions.
- Had our 1st weather event Friday before Christmas. 8 Trees went down, did some pretreating in case of a freeze, so aired in favor of safety. The wind dried our roads.
- Working on winter projects, need to get holiday decorations down. Put in for an additional \$10,000 for upgrading lights in the Fall

- If weather continues to be nice, will pull sod on Ball Park 2 (90 foot hardball field- become a softball field) and t-ball field will get this done January/February
- Meeting with the Scout who wants to do the Monarch patch, by Collier Circle pond.
- Re-natural locations are going well. So far very well received. Good for the environment and reduces our carbon emission footprint. We have 3 or 4 areas.
- Pat thinks we should look at the entire area that the town mows and assess if there is any way to cut back on the amount of places to cut back. Sterns court off of Bliss
- In April Preston will go through and identify no mow areas. May the committee can go through the locations to id
- How the town ends up with odds and ends parts of land, subdivisions can't put a house on it, contractors will turn it over to the town for the town to use. That's how they become part of the town.

#### **TOWN COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORT:**

2 main topics:

- Water Quality- very detailed description of PFAS's and what they are. Poolesville regularly sends water samples to MDE (State) 2 wells that have elevated levels of the PFAS. Well #2 and #3 have been taken out of service after seeing the results. Town is monitoring the water for safety. If there is an issue, we will be notified within 24 hours. Each well had a level, but the two wells identified had evidence of more. Look at the presentation online for full details. Certain carbon filters can reduce the amount of chemicals. Bottled water doesn't necessarily mean less PFAS's. The technology to do the testing is relatively new.
- Backyard chickens- Ordinance #224 no chickens in Poolesville. Revised version allows with restrictions keeping chickens excluding Roosters. Testimony for or against chickens welcome thru email. Tues Jan 17 there will be a follow up meeting.
- Sarah Lamana- request the children at play sign at Soper be moved closer to Brooks Park entrance. Suggest Kohlhoss have flashing crosswalk

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn Pat Second Doug- all in favor.

8:15 adjourned.