Remote Meeting Agenda Template for Non-Regulatory Committees

In accordance with the Governor’s Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, relating to the 2020 novel Coronavirus outbreak emergency, the **February 10, 2021** public meeting of the Recreation Committee for the Town of Falmouth shall be physically closed to the public to avoid group congregation.

Alternative public access to this meeting shall be provided in the following manner:

1. The meeting will be held via Zoom video conference. The public can view and hear the meeting in real time by joining the Zoom video conference.
2. Real-time public comment may be permitted at the discretion of the chair utilizing the Zoom virtual meeting software. This application will allow users to view the meeting and send a comment or question to the Chair via the Chat function. Submitted text comments may be read into the record at the appropriate points in the meeting as determined by the Chair.
   a. Zoom Login instructions:
      i. Instructions and the meeting link for this specific meeting can be found at the following web address:

         http://www.falmouthmass.us/1161/Recreation-Committee

      ii. Please plan on 10-15 minutes of preparation time to log in though it may be less if you have previously used Zoom on the device you will use to access this meeting.

3. Additionally, public comments may be sent in advance of the meeting to Joe Olenick at joe.olenick@falmouthma.gov (Recreation Director) at least 5 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting. Documents and audio or video files may also be submitted via email in advance of the meeting. Submitted email comments and documents will be made a part of the meeting record and may be read into the record, summarized, or displayed during the meeting at the discretion of the chair.

Present:

Richard Boles, Bob Brown, Sandy Cuny, Tom Zine (promoted shortly after meeting began), Patricia Morano, Scott Ghelfi (left at 8:15), Michael Heylin

Open Remote Zoom Meeting and announce meeting procedure

At 7:05 Bob Brown called the meeting to order. He took a roll call attendance:
Richard Boles-present
Proposed New Fire Department on Town owned land on Sandwich Road adjacent to the George Gaspa Sports Complex presentation by Town Official, discussion and vote recommendations

Assistant town manager, Peter Johnson-Staub, informed that the Select Board had appointed an advisory committee tasked to review locations for a new fire station. The committee selected an area near the Gaspa fields as the number one site. A screen was displayed showing the area. Peter Johnson-Staub explained that a planned playground would need ADA improvements before installation. Enclosed in red rectangles on the screen were the proposed fire station, playground and remaining woodland which could be used for a new field. Peter Johnson-Staub said that the Select Board was seeking input from the Recreation Committee and welcomed thoughts and questions.

A discussion included the following:

- What is the total acreage?
  - Peter Johnson-Staub will find out.
- Sandy Cuny thought it made sense to support the fire station in this location. It is clear that the existing fields can coexist with the fire station. Can the site also support extra parking?
  - Peter Johnson-Staub thought the parking idea had merit and could be explored.
  - Peter Johnson-Staub said that the advisory committee worked with the study paid for by the town. Access to the deliberations is a matter of public record.
- Concern was expressed that there be adequate room for the playground.
  - Neighbors, including the Jewish Congregation and Unitarian Universalist Fellowship have been reached out to by Julian Suso.
- Sandy Cuny noted that the original agreement with the 300 Committee included 61 acres of conservation land and 14 acres for municipal use.
  - Todd Duffany, Precinct 4 representative, said that he had concerns with the fire station being proposed for this location. The lot was now too small to accommodate parking for back to back games. If another field is placed here, it would be half sized. An area off of Carriage Shop Road should be considered to start a complex. He said we desperately need turf fields.
  - Tom Bushy echoed Mr. Duffany’s comments. Parking is dicey at the Gaspa complex.
- Sandy Cuny said that the biggest concern was keeping the existing facilities at the Gaspa. Thousands of dollars have been spent by the town, CPC and a family in memory of their child to construct and maintain the fields there. The two can coexist. The first step is to acknowledge that this is an appropriate location for the fire station.
  - Michael Heylin said that both groups could work together, fields development and fire station. Both could be accomplished at the same time.
• Bob Brown asked if there was a motion.
• Michael Heylin thought that more information was needed.
• Sandy Cuny said that the Select Board would likely vote on this on 2/22, she had no concerns with the location and other concerns such as the playground, parking and space for the small field could be addressed later.
• Patricia Morano said that she was on the committee when the Gaspa fields were being proposed and dialog with the neighbors was a huge part of negotiations.
• Bob Brown noted that the Rec Committee voted on matters regarding the Senior Center and then plans were changed leaving the committee disappointed with the final results.
• Peter Johnson-Staub said that concerns were well founded but that it was early in the process. Even a vote acknowledging that the committee has looked at the initial proposal and finds it has merits though needs further consideration and is subject to conditions could be helpful. This is not the only opportunity to give input.
• Sandy Cuny read from the original agreement with the Duppees and the 300 Committee and it noted that the 4.6 acres remain in their natural state for a buffer. All of this would need to go before the Planning Board. This is just the beginning of the process.
• Bob Brown clarified that the committee appears in support of the location subject to further review and conditions which could include a new practice field, restrooms, parking improvements.
• Michael Heylin said that there was no need for a motion because Peter Johnson-Staub was here and could report back to the Select Board.
• Sandy Cuny said that a motion was needed to state, in writing, what the committee is thinking. The proper process is a motion.

Richard Boles moved to approve the site as proposed subject to conditions to be drafted by Bob Brown and submitted to the Select Board prior to their 2/22 meeting. Sandy Cuny seconded.

Patricia Morano noted the issues often pop up during the process and wondered if there was a way to anticipate and prepare for this.

Michael Heylin noted that an example of this was the playground rusting at the DPW.

Sandy Cuny noted that this process was in the preliminary stages; the committee should work with this.

A roll call vote was taken.

Michael Heylin-abstained
Richard Boles- aye
Sandy Cuny- aye
Patricia Morano - aye
Scott Ghelfi-aye
Tom Zine-aye
Bob Brown- aye

Motion passed.
Discussion regarding need for new recreation fields as recommended in the Athletic Field Master Report (1/31/2017) if third field at George Gaspa Sports Complex is no longer an option for expansion.

During the discussion it was noted that there was a lot going on and a decision about new fields would not be made this evening. Joe included in the packets several potential locations that the town owned. He will check them for eligibility for recreational use especially the location on Carriage Shop Road. Priorities included space for soccer, lacrosse, baseball and practice fields. This issue will be discussed further at future meetings.

Discussion on Town Community Building Signage at and near Recreation Department and Senior Center and vote recommendations.

Peter Johnson-Staub presented a mock up of proposed signage for the Gus Canty building. Design was made to match the Senior Center. Did the committee have comments or questions, he wanted to know. The committee had no concerns about the proposed signs.

Michael Heylin moved to approve the signs. Sandy Cuny seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Michael Heylin-aye
Richard Boles- aye
Sandy Cuny- aye
Patricia Morano - aye
Tom Zine-aye
Bob Brown- aye

Motion passed.

Recreation Director Update and Discussion regarding Recreation Department present and future programs during pandemic and Recreation Fields, Parks and Playground maintenance and upgrades report.

Joe reported that exercise and other classes are ongoing. He met with Peter Johnson-Staub to discuss baseball. A decision will be made in March about this. Discussions are ongoing about summer camp but there has been no guidance or information issued.

The Sandwich Road playground is being worked on. The original installers have been contacted for specifications. The playground will need to be made ADA compliant which will be very costly, especially the rubberized surfacing.

Recreation Committee discussion and plan future report to Board of Select Update.

Bob Brown reported that he has had no word from the Select Board. A discussion about whether to include the pickleball issue concluded that if the Rec Committee appeared before the pickleball issue then it should be included in Bob Brown’s report. Bob Brown reminded that the vote about the schedule was a tie at 3-3.
Recreation Department Budget, Interesting Correspondence and Building Use

Joe reported that the budget was level funded.

Items for future agenda

Consequences for unauthorized field use, web site, vandalism, display of history of Trotting Park

Review and approve the minutes from January 13, 2021

Richard Boles moved to approve with correction. Michael Heylin seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Michael Heylin-aye
Richard Boles- aye
Sandy Cuny- aye
Patricia Morano - aye
Tom Zine-aye
Bob Brown- aye

Motion passed.

At 8:48 Patricia Morano moved to adjourn. Sandy Cuny seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Michael Heylin-aye
Richard Boles- aye
Sandy Cuny- aye
Patricia Morano - aye
Tom Zine-aye
Bob Brown- aye

Motion passed

Relevant Documents

Packet from Joe Olenick