



PARKS COMMISSION AGENDA

**March 5, 2019, 5:30 PM
Berlin Town Hall Conference Room**

1. Approval of Minutes of February 5, 2019
2. Updates on Projects/Activities:
 - a) Program Open Space FY20 Development Plan
3. Events Planning
 - a) Clean-Up Day/Take Pride in Berlin Week – April 20-27, 2019
 - b) Spring Celebration – Saturday, April 20, 2019
4. Berlin Falls Park – Bruce Hyder
5. Berlin Youth Program
6. Other

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Save-the-Date:

Community Resiliency Meetings: March 14th from 6 - 9 p.m. at Buckingham Elementary School
March 16th from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Worcester County Library
March 18th from 6 - 9 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Building

Clean-Up Day/Take Pride in Berlin Week – April 20-27, 2019

Spring Celebration – Saturday, April 20, 2019

Spring Just Walk - Saturday, May 4, 2019

Movie Night SDP – Saturday, June 29, 2019 – “The Lion King”

Movie Night WHP – Saturday, July 13, 2019

Movie Night SDP – Saturday, July 27, 2019

National Night Out – Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Movie Night WHP – Saturday, August 10, 2019

Fall Just Walk – Saturday, November 2, 2019

**TOWN HALL
10 WILLIAM STREET
2nd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

MINUTES – PARKS COMMISSION

February 5, 2019

The meeting of the Parks Commission for Tuesday, February 5, 2019 was called to order at 5:30 PM. Parks Commission members present were Loretta Briddell, Patricia Dufendach, Sarah Hooper and Bruce Hyder. Administrative Services Director Mary Bohlen was also present, as well as Youth Program Coordinator Tiffany Scott. Chair Mike Wiley had informed Ms. Bohlen that he would be absent.

Following introduction of Ms. Scott, who was new to her position, Ms. Hooper moved to approve the minutes of November 6, 2018 as written. Approval was unanimous.

Ms. Bohlen brought the Commission's attention to the upcoming submission of the FY2020 Program Open Space Annual Program for Development. Ms. Bohlen noted that the priority list had not been updated in some time and the Commission reviewed the items. Following discussion, it was decided that the order of items listed would remain the same, with the Stephen Decatur tot lot expansion being removed from the list altogether. Ms. Bohlen noted that, when the expansion was first considered, many years prior, the concept would have necessitated the filling in of low areas around the tot lot to prevent wet spots, but that the Town's stormwater initiatives would not allow for this, nor would it be an environmentally sound undertaking. She noted that the Basketball Court lighting project for William Henry Park was currently under review for a Community Parks and Playgrounds grant and that the permanent restroom project for Stephen Decatur Park was a clear priority for the Mayor and Council. Amenities such as waste receptacles, picnic tables, etc. for Berlin Falls Park had been discussed, but no further action taken and that there were still monies available from the bond for that project. Creation of a formal design for Burbage Park had also been on the list for some time. Ms. Bohlen would present the draft plan for FY20 at the next Parks Commission Meeting with submission for approval by the Mayor and Council planned for March 11, 2019.

Ms. Bohlen noted that the Finance Department had requested each Department work on documentation of Performance Measures. She hoped to bring something back to the Commission at their next meeting.

Ms. Bohlen was also excited to let the Commission know that Worcester County Recreation and Parks had proposed Drop-In tennis programming and that the formal request for that would be made at the next Mayor and Council Meeting. Programming for the basketball courts was also in discussion.

Ms. Bohlen provided the survey results from the November 10, 2018 Just Walk event. The event continues to be popular with good feedback from participants. She also noted that the tennis courts project is fully complete at this point.

Discussion of upcoming events followed. Take Pride in Berlin Week was scheduled for Saturday, April 20 to Saturday April 27, 2019. Spring Celebration would be on Saturday, April 20th and Clean-Up Day on Saturday April 27th. Ms. Bohlen noted that she had bug masks from National Night Out for the craft for Spring Celebration. Discussion of possible crafts followed. She also noted that Comcast employees would be joining Clean-Up Day as part of their "Comcast Cares Day" program. Additional tree planting for Henry Park was discussed.

Mr. Hyder provided an update on Berlin Falls Park. The Advisory committee had met with representatives of Worcester County Recreation and Parks and YMCA. Bids for the demolition of several buildings were due on February 8, 2019. Discussion about a potential amphitheater and pollinator garden was ongoing. The committee's next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2019.

Ms. Scott provided an update on the Berlin Youth Program noting that a meet-and-greet was scheduled for February 15th from 6-8 PM with program participants' parents encouraged to attend. Activities were planned for Presidents Day in light of schools being closed. Additional activities with MCBP and yoga were also being planned. Ms. Briddell encouraged Ms. Scott to reach out to Pat Henry and to the Hispanic population.

Ms. Bohlen noted that she would be reaching out on Facebook for movie suggestions in the coming week.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2019.

Ms. Dufendach moved to adjourn the meeting and approval was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mary T. Bohlen
Administrative Services Director
Liaison to the Parks Commission

