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CHRISTINE HALLORAN
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TOWN OF EASTON
Park and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, October 14th, 2020 - 6.30pm
Special Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 6.33pm

Present: Danielle Alves, Phil Tamallanca, AJ Martinich, Rocky Sullivan, Tom Cable, Chris Barcello, Dave Gombos, Andrew Kachele, Wendy Bowditch, Kristi Sogofsky, Beth Weiss, Christine Calvert, Lisa Farasciano, Alison Luciana.

Absent: Ray Longo,

1. Discussion and possible action about Field Maintenance Staff.

Phil Tamallanca wanted to discuss the maintenance employees at Park and Rec going over to DPW and being employed by that department, why the department believes we should maintain the current employment status, are there any benefits to the town and where is this request derived from.

2. Discussion and possible action of Park and Rec and Board of Finance topics listed below

a) Discussion and possible action of Park and Rec and Board of Finance plan to move Park and Rec maintenance staff to DPW

Tom Cable started the discussion with the recognition that the employees are valuable to the department and that a lot of what they do for the town is not recognized. He also stated that he doesn't see how this will not affect the remaining staff members eventually.

Multiple commission members spoke to the importance of the Park & Rec Dept remaining as is. Danielle Alves noted that when jobs are outsourced, the department goes through the proper channels in order to do so. Andy Kachele addressed certain Board of Finance members reasons for the department staff change.

b) Discussion and possible action on letter to Board of Finance/Board of Selectman and informing the public via the Easton Courier on this matter.

Phil Tamallanca discussed the action of putting together a letter with bullet points in favor of keeping the department intact.

3. Discuss Commission Actions on this matter.

It was decided that a letter from the commission to The Courier would be constructed with the viewpoints of the commission members and finalized at the next commission meeting.

4. Commissioner's Comments

Phil Tamallanca noted that in his opinion the department is run very well by director, Danielle Alves and that both the director and programmer had done a wonderful job creating programs and maintaining others during this difficult period with the COVID pandemic.

5. Public Comment

Andrew Kachele noted that he is also on the South Park advisory committee and the requests they got most recently for that property was recreation additions (splash pad, pool) that he recognizes the Park and Rec department has in their long-term plans for Morehouse Park.

Kristi Sogofsky told the department that she spends a lot of time on the town's soccer and baseball fields and whether it's intown or out of town user groups, the facilities are good and she truly appreciates the work that is done on the fields.

6.Adjournment at: 7.50pm.

Submitted by: Alison Luciana, P&R Secretary