



**TOWN OF HUDSON
PARK COMMISSION**
Division of Recreation
Town Hall
78 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-9642

PARK COMMISSION MEETING – MINUTES
March 3, 2021
Via REMOTE ZOOM at 7:00pm

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Hudson Park Commission meeting will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found below. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of Hudson website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

The Hudson Park Commission meeting will be held via a Zoom Meeting (Internet)
Public Participation via calling in or using your computer is encouraged

Topic: Park Commission Meeting
Time: Mar 3, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/94508505321?pwd=QUVhNmVjZmdnY0RYdXBsU000YmVXQT09>

Meeting ID: 945 0850 5321
Passcode: 970976
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1. Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Roan called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Members present were Mr. Roan, Mr. Bowen and Mr. Chaves. Also present: Mr. Santos, Mr. Hannon and Mr. Aponte.

Mr. Roan dispensed with the reading of the statement regarding Zoom virtual meetings and Governor Baker's statement on the Covid-19 virus & Open Meeting Law, as all those present were familiar with the statement, the meeting procedures and no one other than those listed above were present.

2. Minutes to Approve:

A. Public Session – February 10, 2021

Mr. Bowen motioned to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Chaves and carried...

Vote: 3 – 0, in favor

3. Citizens Issues / Special Interest Groups:

A. None

4. Personnel:

A. Mr. Santos informed the Park Commission that the Recreation Department was currently accepting applications for Summer 2021 Employment.

5. Director's Report:

A. Mr. Santos reviewed the latest program registration numbers for the upcoming virtual programs; announced that the Bench Donation Program (Assabet River Rail Trail) would soon be rolled out and publicized; that Town Hall would reopen once Hudson has achieved at least one week of "green" status based on the State of MA Community COVID Risk Map; that virtual public meetings for public bodies, boards and commissions would continue until further notice.

6. New Business:

A. Preliminary discussion on Centennial Beach Summer 2021 Parking Access

Mr. Santos stated that he believed there were some residents who had concerns regarding 1) parking access for residents vs nonresidents, as well as 2) general resident vs nonresident access to the facility based on some communications he had received and some recent dialogue on social media.

Mr. Santos suggested the Park Commission develop a plan to solicit and hear public comments related to the beach, specifically parking access.

Mr. Roan stated that he agreed in soliciting public comment but wanted to get a general idea of where the other Commissioners and Recreation Staff stood regarding whether or not to further restrict parking access, above and beyond the restrictions currently in place.

Mr. Chaves stated that he agreed with Mr. Roan's approach.

...Immediately following that statement, a new meeting attendee joined. Mr. Roan welcomed the meeting attendee, who stated she was interested in the discussion related to Centennial Beach. Mr. Roan explained that they would be soliciting public comment on parking access at the beach in the near future but their goal tonight was to develop a plan in which to do so. Mr. Roan asked if she had any comment to provide, as she was in attendance, to which the attendee responded no. Mr. Roan stated that the attendee was more than welcome to stay for the remainder of the meeting and listen in on the discussion.

Mr. Roan asked if each Commissioner and Staff member could share their opinion on beach parking access specific to the upcoming summer.

Mr. Roan stated he share his thoughts first. Mr. Roan said he believed parking at the beach should be limited to Hudson residents only for the upcoming summer. However, the financial impact of this additional restriction would need to be evaluated as part of the decision-making process. Saying

further and once again, that public input on this matter should be obtained prior to making any decisions.

Mr. Bowen stated that he agreed with Mr. Roan but might want to consider allowing parking for nonresidents who sign up their children for swimming lessons. Additionally, that if residents have concerns with parking issues outside of the facility and along the neighboring streets, those concerns may need to be brought up with ITC.

Mr. Chaves stated that he echoes what Mr. Roan and Mr. Bowen previously stated. Stating further that while input for the public is important, the Commission should base decisions on COVID-19 as well, since the upcoming summer would certainly still be impacted by the virus in some way. He went on to say that our business of the beach, directly brings traffic to the area and that the Commission should work with the neighbors to assist with any future discussions with ITC. Lastly, he stated that he would support parking for Hudson residents only.

Mr. Aponte posed the question of whether or not parking access in the actual parking lot was the true concern some folks may have. Stating further that at this time he is undecided if additional parking restrictions should be imposed.

Mr. Hannon stated that he favors restricting parking access to residents only. However, historically not many nonresidents day and season passes are sold in comparison to those sold to residents.

Mr. Santos stated that he would support residents if they should bring any street parking issues before the ITC. Also, that his opinion aligns with that of Mr. Bowen's, where he would like to allow some highly restricted parking access to nonresidents during that summer of 2021, assuming COVID regulations would support this as well.

Brief discussion followed. The Commission asked Hudson Recreation to solicit public input and invite those who want to comment on public parking access at Centennial Beach during the summer of 2021, to attend the following Park Commission meeting. Additionally, public comment/input could be emailed directly to Mr. Santos as well. Mr. Santos stated that he and his staff would post this information via social media, the Recreation Website and also send out a direct email blast to the over 2500 emails in the RecDesk database.

7. Old Business:

A. Centennial Beach Renovation Project Update

Mr. Santos stated that work was progressing, including the plumbing work associated with the near future installation of the buildings, scheduled for March 11th. Additionally, that work to the sand area of the beach and grubbing along the shoreline would soon take place. Mr. Santos invited the Commissioners to meet him onsite to tour the project and visit the site on the day the buildings are installed.

8. Communications and/or Correspondence to be noted by Commissioners:

A. Mr. Santos stated that he had received an email from a resident who lived near the beach but would hold off on presenting the email to the Park Commission until such time that beach parking access is discussed.

9. Announcements/Adjournment

Mr. Bowen motioned to adjourn at 7:57pm, seconded by Mr. Roan and carried...

Vote: 3 - 0, in favor

Motion to Approve: Mr. Bowen

Second: Mr. Chaves

Vote: 3 – 0, in favor

Date: March 24, 2021