



City of Methuen, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Recreation Committee

The Searles Building • 41 Pleasant Street

Methuen, Massachusetts 01844

TELEPHONE (978) 983-8510 • FAX (978) 983-8975

Recreation Committee:

John Drew, At Large City Councilor - Chair

Patricia Valley, West District City Councilor

Ella MacLaren, Central District City Councilor

Stephen Angelo, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation

Methuen City Council – Recreation Committee

Monday, April 6th, 2026 @ 5:00PM at City Hall in the Great Hall, 3rd floor

Parks and Recreation Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee Members Present: Councilor Drew, Councilor Valley, Councilor MacLaren

Also Present: Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Angelo

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00PM

Public Participation

The President of the Methuen Rail Trail addressed the Subcommittee. He discussed the current condition of the Rail Trail, past improvements, and the need for better communication between the Rail Trail organization and the City.

He noted that about \$20,000 in improvements have been made over the last few years. He also raised concerns about overhangs in need of repair and asked that the Rail Trail be listed as a park on the city website.

Parks and Recreation Update

The Superintendent gave an update on current department work.

Baseball and softball field work is ongoing. Bids have closed for the outdoor fitness court.

Forest Lake bathrooms are expected to be ready for the summer season.

The Superintendent also discussed spring cleanup coordination with DPW, Riverside Drive concerts, Fourth of July fireworks planning, and spring and summer program registration.

There was no update on the park space audit. It remains with the Mayor's Office.

The Superintendent stated that approximately 600 children are currently registered for spring and summer programming. A new cooking class has also been added.

A list of capital project needs has been submitted for future planning.



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Stakeholder Roundtable

The Soccer Director raised concerns about Tenney Field. He stated that snow had been placed in the middle of the field, making that area unusable and creating safety concerns.

It was noted that the issue may involve the School Department. The Superintendent stated that equipment cannot be brought onto fields yet due to current field conditions.

Capital Needs

The Superintendent discussed ongoing capital needs.

Short-term repairs will be needed while larger, long-term solutions are reviewed. Snow melt has exposed additional issues at some parks and fields.

Electronic key access was discussed. The Superintendent stated that this project is larger than originally expected and more information will be provided once options are reviewed.

Little Free Libraries

Councilor Valley discussed adding Little Free Libraries in city parks. She has reached out for pricing.

The Superintendent noted that some Little Free Libraries already exist. Councilor Drew stated that some are connected to the library and are located on streets rather than inside parks.

Councilor Valley will follow up with the library.

Rail Trail Depot Overhangs

The Subcommittee discussed the Rail Trail Depot overhangs.

It was noted that the union would like to review the City's plan before moving forward with any work. The Mayor's Office will need to be involved.

Ownership, responsibility, and the overall plan need to be clarified before work proceeds.

The President of the Methuen Rail Trail stated that grant funding may be available to help with engineering costs.



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Island Adoption Program

Councilor Valley raised the Island Adoption Program.

Councilor Drew stated that Michelle in the Mayor's Office currently handles the program. He will follow up with her for more information.

Parks and Field Access

A coach raised concerns about bathroom access and water not being turned on at fields.

The Superintendent stated that timing is weather dependent.

The Subcommittee discussed field access, bathroom access, water activation, and whether portable restrooms may be needed in certain situations.

Cleanup Day

Councilor Drew discussed the upcoming Cleanup Day scheduled for Saturday, April 5.

Six parks are currently included. Additional parks may be added. Volunteer sign-ups will be posted on the City website.

Councilor Valley requested that Forest Lake be added.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **May 4 at 5:30 p.m.**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00PM.