

Town of North River Meeting Minutes July 14, 2021
Held in Town Council Chambers 43 North River Road, North River, NL

In Attendance: Mayor Joanne Morrissey,
Councillors' Brian Hurley, Kelly Hall, Patrick Mackey, Elsie Morrissey & Dwight Snow
Sheila Hall Town Clerk/Administrator
Absent: Deputy Mayor Blair Hurley

Mayor Morrissey called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Much discussion around the ballfield concerns light post and leisure park structures inside.
Noted project was discussed in December and posted in the towns' newsletter. No concerns were received at the town office.

Councilor Hurley and Mayor Morrissey stated that the Sit down Leisure Park will be situated inside the fence but outside the walking track and will not be an obstacle to playing ball.
Park will be ready for topsoil next week.

Light Post/backstop

Questions around cost to relocate light pole outside. Councilor Hurley will get quote to move.
Discussion on temporary fence solution so program can continue.
Councillor Hurley informed fencing should cost no more than \$500.00 and would arrange for the fence to be put in place within the next few days.

Motion 2021 –1951– Kelly Hall / Dwight Snow

Resolved that a temporary fence be put around the light post which is currently positioned in the backstop of the field within the next few days.
All in Favor Motion Carried

Insurance construction liability. Clerk to get insurance advice and copy to members.

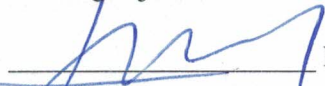
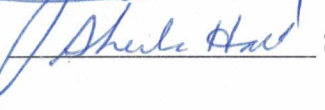
Agreed due to current costs, dugout material on hold for now.
Buried cables should be identified by contractor or NL Power.

Adjournment

Motion 2021 –1952– Brian Hurley / Elsie Morrissey

Resolved that this meeting of council be adjourned until the next regular meeting
July 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Council Chambers, 43 North River Road.
All in Favor Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Joanne Morrissey

Sheila Hall, Town Clerk/Administrator

14 July 2021

Good day Mayor, Deputy and Councillors,

On June 21st, I sent an email to council regarding safety concern as it relates to the Softball field. Please reference that email for concerns.

Rec Committee liaison, Counsellor Kelly Hall has asked me to provide All the following info to council. I will do my best to explain as I go.

"Can you let me know your proposal for fixing the field i.e the light"

The only option for this light is to be move to an area outside the fenced area. Some questions have been raised to me about moving the backstop? This was not my suggestion in anyway and would create its own set of new challenges. The only place to move the backstop would be to the interior of the walking track. It would change the dimensions of the fence connecting the dugout to the backstop. This would cause the fence to cross the walking track which we cannot do as we do not want to obstruct the track. Moving this light is the only options to remove the hazard.

As for the outfield fence, there needs to be a barrier between the leisure park and the playing surface. This home run fence would extend from corner to corner on the inside of the walking track. This would not interfere in any way with the walking track and leisure park. In contacting commercial fencing experts who install this sort of equipment province wide, they say the minimum standard would be a 6' high chain link fence in the outfield. This does fall in line with what you will see on any other softball field, and I have confirmed this with Softball NL. They also supply and install the proper Safety cap on the fence as far as I know.

I have attached a quote for materials and install of this fence from Provincial Fencing. They do the best quality work for less maintenance issues in the future but are also on the high end of what this project would cost. I always like to get the higher end quote first and work back from that. I have seen their work and can attest to the quality however as you can imagine, half this cost is labour. The materials cost is also included on the quote as they are a major supplier of materials for the island. If need be, they can supply only materials. All materials are commercial grade as they should be,

I have attached a diagram showing the position of the newly proposed outfield home run fence. Ignore the white circles. The Yellow line shows the fence. It would be approximately 425 feet long. This will also aid in keeping people seated in the leisure park safe if they choose to use this area while watching their kids or family play sports. Interestingly, there are grants opening up Friday which I am told multiple municipalities are applying on for similar fencing projects.


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"Can we have numbers on North River residents in Tball, softball and proposed adult mixed league?"

Here is our current registration as it relates to Tball, Minor Softball and Adult Softball:

Tball = 30 kids Total, 15 from NR

Minor Softball = 12 Kids Total, 8 Form NR

Mixed Adult = 26 Adults Total, 20 from NR

"Did JDR ever give quote on roofing for dugouts?"

At the beginning of the season this year I had asked JDR for a quote for materials only as they were still happy to do the labour for free to support the programs. Once this issue arose, I asked JDR to hold off until all is rectified. With this moving in the right direction I have asked JDR to move ahead, as of yesterday, in getting a materials quote.

Further to these issues raised by myself, there has been the idea out there that the Softball field was converted into a Soccer Field. As I explained during my informal meeting with part of council last week, Mr Bob Tarrent ensures me this was never decommissioned as a softball field. In fact, when money was raised, it was done so to make an addition to the softball field, not to take away. In depth planning was done to ensure the layout of the soccer field extension would not negatively impact soft ball but in fact expand the outfield portion of the softball playing surface to actually improve the Softball field.

Lastly, I was speaking with Dr. Kevin Giles last week on an unrelated Rec Committee issue. In doing so, he mentioned our Tball program and how great it was to see it back again this summer. He continued to point out that this field is used almost continuously daily during our fair-weather months of the school year instead of the gymnasium for every sport you can imagine.

For me, this conversation emphasized the importance of a safe, obstruction free field, not just for the residence of North River but for all the children who attend school here. The movement of the backstop light and fencing off the outfield lights and leisure park from the playing surface will ensure this. All of this with JDR's Reno of the dugouts, addition of the seating area/green space and continued use of the track, this would be a high-class facility that would not only get used by EVERYONE, but be something the towns people could also be proud of.

I would like to request Council address these safety issues with the new planned developments such that everyone can enjoy and use this area safely. Please forward a written response to my original email on June 21st as well as this letter to ryan_gates@hotmail.com

We are very much looking forward to working with you on this matter.

